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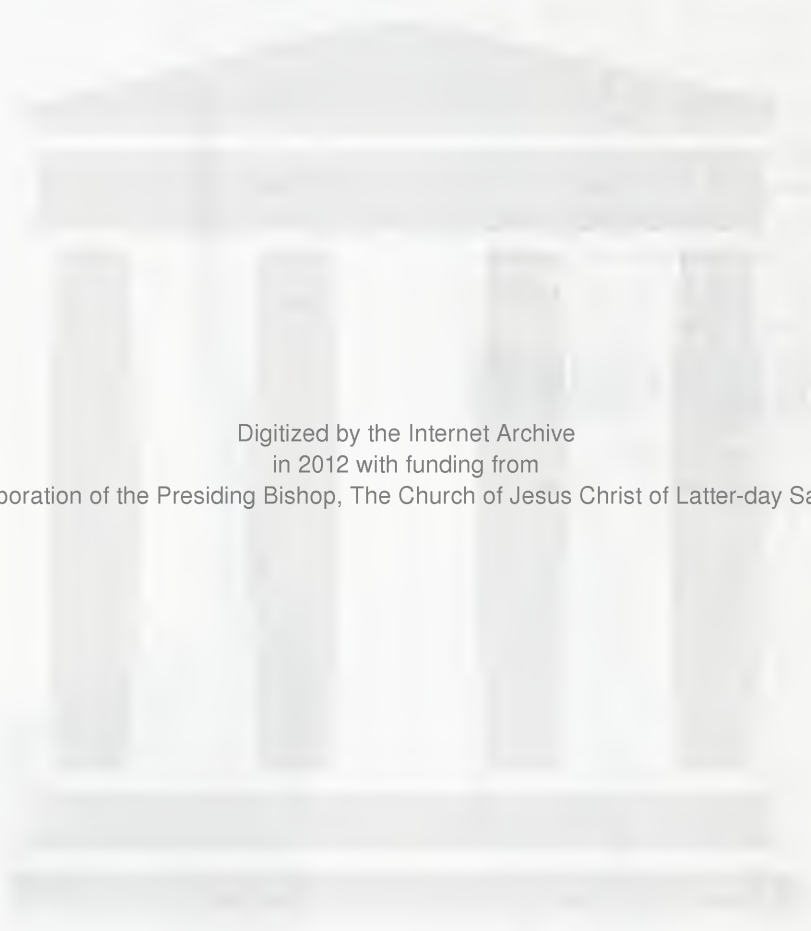
CARPETING USED THROUGHOUT THE CHAPELS

This issue of the "Millennial Star" is a combined November and December edition, and contains lesson and auxiliary material for two months.

We have produced this double issue, so that we can begin immediately with our plans for the new-style "Millennial Star" for 1966. The January issue of the 1966 "Star" will be published on December 20th. This will make it easier for auxiliary leaders and teachers to prepare for their February leadership meetings and classes from the material in the "Star"

With the publication of this double issue, those who have current, unexpired subscriptions will, of course, lose one month on their subscription. But this will be made up to them by extending their subscriptions for one extra month.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



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A GOD OF PASSIONS

GENERALLY we speak of God as the personification of love, which of course he is.

But he can hate also, in spite of the sectarian teaching that his without body, parts or passions.

Yet he does not hate people. He loves us all, as his children, although he hates the sinful things we do, and angers at transgression and defiance of his laws. He is a God of passions, without a doubt.

In the 6th chapter of Proverbs are listed some of his "hates" and it is refreshing to remind ourselves of them.

Here the scriptures say:

"This six things doth the Lord hate, yea seven are an abomination unto him:

"A proud look,

"A lying tongue,

"And hands that shed innocent blood.

"A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations.

"Feet that be swift in running to mischief.

"A false witness that speaketh lies.

"And he that soweth discord among brethren."

He speaks also of sex sin, declaring that whoso committeth adultery lacketh understanding and "destroyeth his own soul."

"Can a man take fire into his bosom and his clothes not be burned?

"Can one go on hot coals and his feet not be burned?"

Purity, humility and obedience—these are the stepping stones to success in the Kingdom of God.

Without them there can be no salvation, either in this life or the world to come. But with them, we shall enjoy the abundant life.

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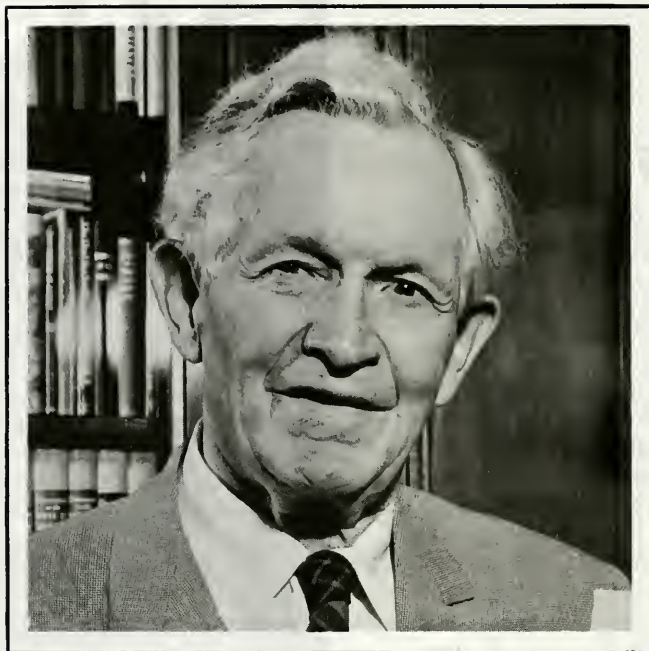
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"The Church of the World." A symbolic representation by artist Walter J. Chiles of the Church of Jesus Christ as a world-wide organisation, with a Prophet at its head.

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President David O. McKay



President Hugh B. Brown

Greetings from the First Presidency



President N. Eldon Tanner

TO our beloved fellow workers and members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we extend our greetings, our love, our blessings and our appreciation. And to all men of all nations to whom this message may come, we extend the Christmas message of gladness and peace on earth, good will toward men."

Associated with the observance of this Yuletide season is the soul-satisfying experience of losing oneself in the service of others. The Christmas season is a joyous occasion when we wish for all the joy and peace which comes with human understanding.

As the Christian world joins in celebrating the birth of the Saviour, we declare it to be a time of repentance and conversion, through which all may receive of His blessings. We reaffirm to the world our testimony that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God, the Creator under the Father of all things; "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." He is the Redeemer of mankind, the resurrected Lord. We bear witness to His words to His people of this continent, recorded in the Book of Mormon, which testify of the purpose of His coming into the world:

"Yea, verily I say unto you if ye will come unto me ye shall receive eternal life. Behold, mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me.

"Therefore, whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive, for of such is

the kingdom of God. Behold, for such I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again; therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved." (III 9:14, 22).

We pray sincerely that the spirit of the Risen Lord will banish from the world the selfishness, malice and hatred which blacken the hearts of many men and nations. Especially do we desire that this light of the Gospel of Christ will come to the leaders of the nations of the world to remove the tenacious roots of international misunderstandings which prevent the spread of peace and love of humanity.

With our faithful brethren and sisters the world over, we rejoice in the present progress and expansion of the Kingdom of God. The year just closing has been marked by the devotion and dedication of the many faithful people who work steadily for the advancement of the work of the Lord.

We rejoice that many thousands from all parts of this nation and many from other countries of the world have been told the story of the Restoration as they have visited the Mormon Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. The number of visitors to this impressive exhibit was beyond our expectations, and we are indeed happy that so many people have been given cause to think more seriously of the purpose of life and their responsibilities to themselves, their fellowmen, and to

God who gave them life.

We rejoice in many other evidences of the growth and stability of the work of the Church throughout the world—in the creation of new stakes and new missions and in the unparalleled building programme which is adding hundreds of houses of worship for the Saints, including those in the far corners of the earth. Our people are being abundantly blessed for their unselfishness in contributing of their means and skills to build up the physical facilities of the Kingdom of God. These beautiful houses of worship are places where their children may be

taught in generations to come, and where they may learn the ways of the Lord and engage in activities which will strengthen family ties.

We are grateful for the progress made during the past year toward the ultimate improvement of the teaching of the Gospel in the home. We urge parents everywhere to avail themselves of these programmes and plans for the strengthening of home and family ties. It is our responsibility to do all possible to preserve the sanctity of the home, to safeguard our children, and strengthen their faith by a cultivation of Gospel principles in the home.

Missionary work is going forward with an accelerated pace throughout the world. This great programme of spreading the Restored Gospel involves some investment of time and means by thou-

sands of members. They are rewarded as they note the increased joy and happiness of thousands of converts who are being brought into the Church of Christ. The missionaries are making many friends and converts in many lands, bringing about a stability of the work which hold bright promise for the future.

The mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is to bring this knowledge to the world, to declare that Christ is the living head of the Kingdom of God on the earth. By His divine authority tens of thousands of men possess the Holy Priesthood and represent Him on the earth today. They are men whose duty it is to maintain their influence "by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by longsuffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; by kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile . . .

" . . . and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distill upon thy soul as the dew from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy sceptre an unchanging sceptre of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever."

David O. McKay
Hugh B. Brown
M. Eldon Tanner

News and Pictures from the British Stakes & Missions



The new Chapel which now serves the saints in East Hull.

AARONIC CAMP

AARONIC Priesthood boys from the whole of the South-West British Mission gathered at Stratford Park in Stroud, Gloucestershire, for their annual Priesthood Camp Week-end.

The camp began on the Friday evening, after they had been allocated their sleeping tents, with talks and stories by President Ray H. Barton, president of the S.W.B. Mission.

On Saturday morning the full pro-



Above: Aaronic Priesthood holders from the South-West British Mission at their camp in Stratford Park, Stroud. **Right:** The North British Mission baseball team, Marman Yankees. **Back row, left to right,** Umpire, Elders Hill, Jones, Chamberlain, Sanford, Osborn and Abbott, Umpire. **Middle row,** Elders Sinks, Barney, Mather and Brown. **In front,** Elder Johns (captain).

gramme began with a hearty camp-fire breakfast, which put everyone in the right mood for the next item on the programme—"spud bashing" for the week-end. Brian West, the Mission YM Superintendent, organised this chore, and everyone shared the work. The morning's programme consisted of a film show in the dining marquee, followed by a group discussion led by President R. Mortimer, Chippenham Branch; President S. Jeffcock, Redruth Branch; and D. I. Armstrong, the Mission Aaronic Priesthood Advisor.

In the afternoon those who did not participate in the games of football, golf or in the swimming, went on a hike with President A. E. White, the 74-year-old president of the Falmouth Branch. Supper was followed by a camp fire under the leadership of President A. Gadsby, the Newton Branch President, who is also a Scout Master and who had his Scout troop with him at the camp. Every district was assigned time for a skit or party entertainment.

Sunday morning began with the Priesthood meeting, presided over by President Barton. Special classes

were held for Deacons, Teachers, Priests and visiting Elders.

Then followed the Camp Conference and Testimony meeting, at which talks were given by four of the younger priesthood holders and by the Mission leaders. An interesting part of the Conference was a recorded talk by President A. Ray Curtis, the former president of the S.W.B. Mission. Many testimonies were borne, including two by Sister Helen Barton, wife of the president, and Sister Green, the Mission Relief Society President, who acted as cooks at the camp. A number of priesthood callings were sustained, and two new members of the Mission Aaronic Priesthood Committee were set apart.

CHAMPIONS AGAIN

THE North British Mission's baseball team known as the "Mormon Yankees" have had an outstanding record of wins since they were organised in 1963. They are part of the Merseyside League, which operates in the Liverpool and Manchester Areas. The league is affiliated to the National Baseball Congress in America.

This year has been one of their most outstanding. They again won the Merseyside League championship, as well as the Artco Trophy, which was sent to this country for competition by a firm in the state of Michigan in the U.S.

The "Mormon Yankees" are well-known and well-respected for their spirit and sportsmanship throughout the area where they play, and much goodwill comes to the Church through their activities.

It was anticipated that the "Mormon Yankees" would go on and participate in the All British Championship competition, but unfortunately they had to eliminate themselves from the contest. The championship games were played on Sundays, and the team chose not to participate in the national competition under these circumstances.

Apart from being fine baseball



players, the team have also done some outstanding proselyting in the areas where they labour. St. Helens, Liverpool and Preston, where they labour, have been among the most productive areas during 1965 in the North British Mission.

The team, under captain, Elder Richard E. Johns, are; Elders Danny L. Hill, Lyle C. Jones, Jay A. Chamberlain, Kim A. Sanford, David J. Osborn, Wayne W. Sinks, McLloyd Barney, Garth H. Mather and Lonnie D. Brown.

TALENT SHOW

THE Helston Branch MIA and Primary combined to put on a Talent Show in the Branch Chapel. One of the items produced by the MIA was a skit entitled "The First Mormon Missionary." Magic and music filled the remainder of the programme, with the Primary children adding their talent with the song, "Oh, How Lovely was the Morning."

A talent of another sort received its award also in the Helston Branch when the three Harris boys received

Aaronic Priesthood awards and letter of commendation for their consistent attendance and hard work in their Priesthood assignments. A. G. Harris (Priest) and D. N. Harris (Deacon) received their award certificates, and C. G. Harris (Deacon) a letter of commendation. These were the first awards in the Helston Branch.

STUDENT MISSIONARY

SHORTLY after the new Nottingham Chapel was completed a young man from Northampton entered Nottingham University to study architecture. He was not a member of the Church, but his brother was and he soon became interested, attending the meetings regularly and playing an active part in the MIA.

This young man soon had a burning testimony of the gospel, and was baptised by his brother, Roger Beardsmore then carried the gospel to his fellow University students, and one of them began coming to Sunday School and Sacrament meetings. Edward Sharpe was thus prepared for the missionaries, and soon afterwards was baptised by Roger.



Members of the Helstan Branch MIA and Primary, who took part in the Branch Talent Show.



Children of the Medway Branch Primary at their picnic in the Jackson Park, Rochester. Thirty-four primary children and friends attended, with their officers and teachers.

Now there are three Mormons at Nottingham University, for Roger and Edward have been joined by Richard Shreave, of Ipswich, and these three young students are already preparing other students for baptism into the Church of Jesus Christ.

"STATELY HOME" CAMP

THE beautiful Minard Castle on Loch Fyne in Scotland, which is one of the few genuine "stately homes" and which has now been converted into a Holiday Fellowship youth guest house, was the site of the London Stake MIA week-long camp. The camp was under the direction of the Stake MIA Board, with Superintendent Ian Foster in charge. The campers travelled by coach throughout Friday night and the best part of Saturday to get to the camp. On the Sunday, Sunday School and Sacrament meetings were held, while in the afternoon the party went on a coach tour to Lochgiliphead.

During the week, the campers received instruction on map reading—and were then sent out on hikes, First Aid, and Campercrafter activities. Fancy dress and talent shows were held, and a testimony meeting on the last evening completed the week.

An additional "excitement"—not on the programme—was on the return journey when a flying stone shattered the full-width curved front window of the coach. The remainder of the journey was spent by everyone wearing their anoracks back to front and plying the driver with blankets and warming advice.

"Over the Rainbow" was the theme of the London Stake Gold and Green Ball, which was held at the Hyde Park Chapel. Formal evening wear was encouraged and the result was a very high standard of dress and dancing. A demonstration of ballroom dancing was presented by Sister Marjorie Rushton, the Stake YW President, and Mr. Dennis Hart-Wilson.

The London Stake GLEMM

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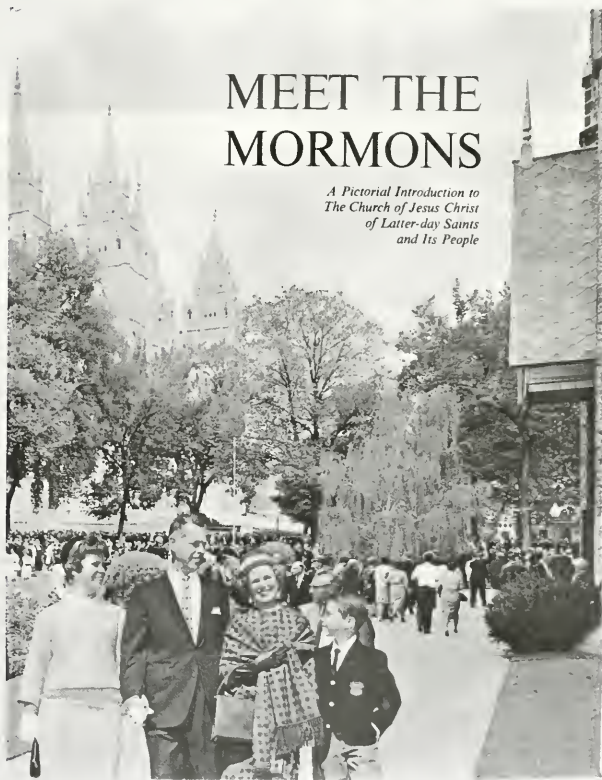
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Left: President O. Preston Robinson, of the British Mission, replying to a toast at the Mission Elders' Dinner of the Hyde Park Chapel, London. The President and his two counsellors presided at the dinner, which was followed by a cabaret show and dancing. Below: Part of the group of more than 200 Elders and their wives who sat down to the dinner.



Council held a Tramps Ball on the South London Ward building site, and admission to the evening event was a ticket showing that the person had worked on the building during the day. The South London Ward had set themselves a target of having the roof on for the ball, and the target was achieved.

FROM THE LEICESTER STAKE

THE stage of the new Leicester Stake House had its "baptism of fire" when the Leicester Ward put on a social and concert. The evening's entertainment consisted of piano duets by Sisters Josephine Bray and Josephine Green, singing by the Primary children, magic by Brother P. Edwards, with songs by Sisters Nash and one of the plasterers who worked on the Stake House. He was not a member of the Church. Gifts were presented to Elder Headman and his family, who will now be leaving the Leicester Ward. After refreshments, the social concluded with dancing for the older

members, and a film show for the Primary children.

Four Derby Ward members represented their Ward in the Leicester Stake Tennis Tournament. Brother Graham Conway won the men's title and Sister Angela Cotes took the ladies' title.

BRANCH DINNER

MORE than 50 people attended the Beverley Branch Dinner and Dance in the new Beverley Chapel. The evening began with the film, "The Windows of Heaven," after which dinner was served in the cultural hall. The meal was cooked by the Priesthood and also served by them. After the dinner, the members took part in games and dancing.

A film was also shown at the Branch Relief Society's opening social . . . this time they saw "The Mormon Pavilion at the World's Fair." The film took them on a tour of the Pavilion, showing some of the paintings, statues and displays put on by the Church.



Sister Denise Crampton and Brother Rayce Stuart Goadier, who were married in the Stack-part Ward Chapel before a congregation of more than 150 members. Bra. Goadier is 2nd Counsellor in the Ward Bishopric, and Sister Crampton is YWMLA secretary and a Sunday School teacher.

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JESUS the CHRIST

reality to the disciples is shown in their intense grief, in the statement of Thomas, in the moral perplexity of Peter, and in the evident preparations for a permanent burial of their Master. Notwithstanding the assurance of Christ, often repeated during the two and a half years he was with them, that he would return to them after death, the apostles seemed not to have accepted, or at least not comprehended the statement as a literal fact.

What was it, we ask the world, that suddenly changed these disciples to confident, fearless, heroic preachers of the gospel of Jesus Christ? It was a revelation that Christ had risen from the grave, his promises had been kept, his Messianic mission fulfilled. "The final and absolute seal of genuineness had been put on all his claims, and the indelible stamp of a divine authority upon all his teachings. The gloom of death had been banished by the glorious light of the presence of the risen, glorified Lord and Saviour."

On the evidence of these unprejudiced, unexpected, incredulous witnesses the resurrection has its impregnable foundation. There was one young man among them. I do not know whether we know about his life, but I like to think of him as a sort of independent thinker, not paying much attention to his mother's religion—his mother had joined the Christian Church, but he did not pay much attention to it until he was disturbed one night by his mother's voice asking him to rise quickly, "don't stop to dress, throw a cloak around your body and rush to Gethsemane and tell Jesus that Judas and soldiers are coming to arrest him." I think that young man who fled naked from the men who snatched the sheet from his body, was John Mark, the author of one of the four Gospels. We know he did join the Church, later, and that he laboured with Peter. We know that Paul, in that letter to Timothy, said: "Bring Mark with you. He is profitable to our ministry, and let us hear his testimony." (*See II Timothy 4:11.*) We know he went on a mission to the northern part of Africa, and you travellers today can walk over ruins built to his memory.

We have no evidence that Mark joined the Church while the Saviour was on the earth. Undoubtedly the Saviour was in Mark's home. At any rate we are justified in assuming that he was acquainted with the Master. Mark does not himself recount any appearance of the Risen Lord, but he testifies that the Lord would meet his disciples. From Mark we hear the glorious proclamation of the first empty tomb in all the world. For the first time in history the words "Here lies" were supplanted by the divine message, "He is risen." No one can doubt that Mark was not convinced in his soul of the reality of the empty tomb, and if my inference is right, he knew about the trial, the humiliation to which Jesus was subjected, and the crucifixion, and he became a minister of the gospel. To the proclaiming of this truth he devoted his life, and if tradition can be relied upon, he sealed his testimony with his blood.

The text we read said that Luke stood by Paul's side at the jail. It was not long after that before Paul, according to tradition, was beheaded. Luke was a physician. He spent many years of his life studying about this man, Jesus, who was crucified. He experienced the darkness that spread over that country when Jesus was crucified. According to all trustworthy testimony we have the gospel of Luke as it came from his own hand. In chapter 24 Luke testifies to the divine message: "Why seek ye the

living among the dead?

"He is not here, but is risen." (*Luke 24:5-6.*)

With equal assurance as to their accuracy we can accept his statement and witness in regard to Peter's and Paul's and other apostles' testimony regarding the resurrection. To whom also he [Christ] shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (*Acts 1:3.*)

Who can doubt Luke's absolute confidence in the reality or the risen Redeemer? Contrast his testimony, his life, with that of upstarts who deny the existence of God and laugh at the claims of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer.

It is true that neither Mark nor Luke testify as to having personally seen the Risen Lord, and therefore some urge that their recorded testimonies cannot be taken as firsthand evidence. That they do not so testify, and yet were convinced that others did not see him, shows how incontrovertible was the evidence among the apostles and other disciples that the resurrection was a reality.

Fortunately, however, there is a document which does give the personal testimony of an eyewitness, a witness to an appearance of Jesus after his death and burial. This personal testimony also corroborates the testimony not only of these two men, Mark and Luke, but of others also. I have in mind Saul, a Jew of Tarsus, educated at the feet of Gamaliel, a strict Pharisee, and before his conversion a bitter persecutor of all who believed in Jesus of Nazareth. And there is a quotation from the oldest authentic document in existence relating or testifying to the resurrection of Christ, in which we find Saul's (Paul's) words, sent back to people who had joined the Church, whom he loved and who loved him, saying:

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

"And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

"And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

"After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

"After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

"And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

"For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." (I Cor. 15:3-9.)

In addition to the ancient apostles, we have the testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith who gives in an unequivocal description the following stirring testimony in relation to his first vision:

"... When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages . . . standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (P. of G.P., Joseph Smith 2:17.) These words were spoken nearly two thousand years after the events to which I have already called your attention!

Thus, my dear fellow workers and my friends in the world, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stands with Peter, Paul, with James, and with all the other apostles in accepting the resurrection, not only as being literally true, but also as the consummation of

Christ's divine mission on earth. Other great religious leaders among the nations of the world since history began have taught virtue, temperance, self-control, service, obedience to righteousness and duty; some have taught a belief in one supreme ruler and in a hereafter; but only Christ broke the seal of the grave and revealed death as the door to immortality and eternal life.

If Christ lived after death, so shall men, each one taking his place in the next world for which he is best fitted. Since love is as eternal as life, the message of the resurrection is the most comforting, the most glorifying ever given to man; for when death takes a loved one from us, we can look with assurance into the open grave and say, "He is not here; he will rise again."

My dear fellow workers, it is just as easy for me to accept as a divine truth the fact that Christ preached to the spirits in prison while his body lay in the tomb as it is for me to look at you from this pulpit. It is true! It is just as easy for me to realize—and note this—that one may so live that he may receive impressions and direct messages through divine inspiration. The veil is thin between those who hold the priesthood and divine messengers on the other side of the veil.

Let us say today as Paul wrote to Timothy: "Preach the word . . . do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." (II Timothy 4:2, 5.)

" . . . The Lord is God, and beside him there is no Saviour.

"Great is his wisdom, marvellous are his ways, and the extent of his doings none can find out.

"His purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand.

"From eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail.

"For thus saith the Lord—I, the Lord, am merciful and and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honour those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end.

"Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory." (D. & C. 76:1-6)

God help us in this age so threatened with an ideology of benighted people of disbelief in God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ and in the restored gospel through those divine Personages, to preach the Word and to be true to our callings no matter what or where they may be.

Not only a babe, but Jehovah, Son of God

by Hugh B. Brown

ANY man, I'm sure, who has a concept of the meaning of Christmas must stand amazed and humbled if he undertakes to speak of Christ and His transcendent mission. I'm thinking not only of the babe of Bethlehem, but of Jehovah, the Son of God, as He was in the beginning as recorded in the Old Testament. He was present when the council was held in the heavens preparatory to the adoption of the plan for our salvation. The Bible tells us:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

"The same was in the beginning with God.

"All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men . . .

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-4; 14).

We think of Christ at Christmas time as the babe of Bethlehem, but we remember Him also as the boy on the shores of Galilee, and we remember those three transcendent years when He ministered among the poor of Judea. We think of His betrayal in Gethsemane, of Him hanging on the cross, and especially we think of His resurrection from the tomb with His glorified body.

As we celebrate Christmas time let us contemplate

the majestic glory, the Godhood of Him whose birth we celebrate. He was the Jehovah of the Old Testament, the one who opposed Lucifer's plan to deprive men of freedom. He it was who spoke to prophets of old from Adam to Malachi. He strengthened and instructed Abraham; was with Moses in the wilderness and was the author of the ten commandments. He spoke through Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and other prophets. He was in very fact one of the Godhead before He took a mortal body. This is an astounding thought that a God should become a mortal man born to a virgin of immaculate conception whose Father was God himself. He was the first-born in the spirit world and the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church, has a concept of the meaning of Christmas which goes beyond that which is usually referred to in the churches of the day, for it sees in this divine personage the very Son of God, one of the holy trinity. Let us read about His earthly advent as it is recorded in the second chapter of Luke. Joseph and Mary had gone to Bethlehem to be taxed under the order of Caesar Augustus. It was here she brought forth her divine son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by . . .

night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord cam^a upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." (Luke 2:8-14).

Cynics, nonbelievers, many men in foreign lands and some among us disbelieve and deny this, the most glorious message that has ever come to the world.

Sometimes we are asked by our friends who do not understand us whether the Mormons are Christians. If believing that Christ the Lord is in fact the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, constitutes a Christian, then the Mormons are Christians. That is the very centre and circumference of the teachings of the Church. This Church, like its prototype, is built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. Furthermore, the Mormon Church so-called, though it has a scripture in addition to the Holy Bible, believes the Bible to be the word of God. From the Holy Bible we learn that the child who was born in Bethlehem had been the Jehovah of the Old Testament and was to become the Messiah of the New Testament.

The world is in chaos and confusion, is divided and imperiled, and the adversary is organized and marshalled for war with an efficiency and power such as has never been known in the world before. We seem to stand on the very brink of the winding up scene. But though they are well organized and can hardly be numbered, these men and women who are being systematically indoctrinated with the abominable doctrine that there is no God, that Jesus is a myth and religion is an opiate, will someday know that this Jesus of Nazareth who was born in Bethlehem still lives and is still concerned with the affairs of men. However strong the opposition may be, ultimate victory is certain, because the Son of God is still engaged in the work of His Father.

Hundreds of thousands of men and women have been given a witness by the Holy Spirit that Jesus of Nazareth still lives and that He appeared on this earth in this dispensation. If that statement be true it is the greatest message that has come to this earth since He, with His resurrected body, ascended into heaven. He Himself declared that He lived before He was born into mortality.

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me . . .

"When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

"What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? (John 6:38; 61-62).

And then in that most glorious of all prayers He said:

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (John 17:5).

So we think of Him in terms of His pre-existence, of

His transcendent life in mortality, of His cruel crucifixion, and His glorious resurrection. And we know that He will come again as He and the prophets have promised even from the days of Adam. We humbly testify that He will come again, and that that coming is near, even at our door. How near no man knows for it has not been revealed even to the angels in heaven. The Lord said that when the fig tree puts forth its leaves you may know that summer is near. We behold figuratively the leaves on fig trees everywhere. The signs of the times indicate we are nearing the end.

Zacharias tells us that He will come and stand on the Mount of Olives and it shall be split in twain. And when that time comes, according to the prophets, He will extend His hand and they will see the wounds in His hands, and will ask whence these wounds? And He will say, these I received in the house of my friends. And then shall the Jews come to realize that the Messiah for whose coming they have prayed through the centuries is in fact this Jesus of Nazareth. The Bible tells us that He will suddenly come to His temple and He will come with the voice of an archangel and with the trump of God which shall be heard throughout the earth.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:" (Matt. 25:31).

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." (Luke 12:40).

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord ;

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

"Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19-21).

He will make several appearances but His final coming will be when He takes over as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And at that time Satan will be bound. May I call your attention to the words of the Apostle John who said:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

"And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.

"And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled . . ." (Rev. 20:1-3).

And John continues:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." (Rev. 21:1-3).

I can think of no more heartening message that could

be given to the world at this time of chaos and confusion than the message of universal peace, when the King of Kings is to come and rule during the millennium. He who was in the beginning with God is still with God and God is with Him.

I wanted to bring to you this larger view of the meaning of Christmas. You who preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ are teaching not only of the babe and the boy and the man immortality, you are teaching of the greatest of all personalities of all time, for you are teaching that God Himself, even the Son of God, came among men to teach us how to live and to reveal God to us. By His atoning sacrifice He made it possible for us to come back in the presence of God. But for His sacrifice, but for His atonement all men would have remained forever in the grave. Through His atonement the bands of death were broken and the resurrection was made possible for all men, good or bad.

But the resurrection is not all. We are working for exaltation, eternal life an eternal increase. And that last phrase means more than an increase of posterity. It means increase of knowledge and the power that comes with knowledge. It means increase of intelligence which is the very glory of God and the potential glory of man. It means increase of all things which go to make up Godhood. That is what we are working for and that is what is guaranteed to every man and woman who will obey the commandments of God and bring their lives into harmony with His laws.

I testify to you that I know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Redeemer of the world. I thank God for that testimony, my most priceless possession. I thank Him that the fig tree is putting forth its leaves and that summer is near. God help us each to prepare for His coming. It is the duty of all of you who have recently become members of the Church to warn your neighbours. It is the duty of you older members of the Church to welcome the new members, to make them feel at home, to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not only verbally but by your lives.

Latter-day Saints are no better than anyone else unless they are better. By that I mean mere membership in the

Church does not save a man. Nor does mere baptism save a man. Salvation is an ongoing process. None of us is saved at any given time in life. The Lord said only he that endures to the end shall be saved. So I call upon all to respond to the invitation and challenge of the President of the Church that everyone shall become a missionary.

Indictive of what conversion will do to a man, I refer to the case of a man and wife who came into my office in Salt Lake some time ago. The man himself, as I learned afterwards, had been the minister of a church in New York. He said: "Two years ago I passed through Salt Lake en route to California. I stopped out of curiosity and went to Temple Square. Something the guide said while there found an echo in my heart. Although I had my own church in New York, I wanted to know more about the Mormons. I cancelled my trip to California and stayed three days in Salt Lake City. Before leaving for my home I obtained the address of the president of the Eastern States Mission. I immediately wrote and asked him to send some missionaries to my home as I wanted to know more.

I was amazed and little bit offended shortly thereafter when I answered the doorbell and two 'beardless young boys' stood on my doorstep. They said, 'We are the missionaries. You sent for us.' Well, I had sent for them, and I felt obliged to ask them in. Brother Brown, I had been a minister of the gospel for many years, but I learned more gospel in the next two hours than I had ever heard in all my life. And I heard it from the lips of babes, for these were as babes as far as age is concerned. And yet they were sage with a message that I couldn't reject."

And then he said: "I studied for nearly two years, read everything I could get both for and against the Church and then I went before my own congregation in New York and said, 'My dear friends, I am resigning as your minister. I have joined the Mormon Church. I am going out to live in Salt Lake City.'" And he gave ten reasons for his action. I shall not recite them, but among them was, "I have found the church which most nearly measures up to the message of Jesus the Christ."

Ancient records testify of Christ

by Dr. O. Preston Robinson

ON the wall of one of the great buildings in Rockefeller Plaza, in the heart of the city of New York, a builder has inscribed these words:

"Man's ultimate destiny depends not whether he can learn new lessons, or make new discoveries, or new conquest but upon his acceptance of the lessons taught him close upon 2,000 years ago."

Man's ultimate destiny does depend upon a return to those simple principles of Christian love and brotherhood

for which the Christ lived and died. Without doubt, the urgent and desperate problems faced by the peoples of the world will not be solved through governmental alliances, through increased concentration of power nor by the applications of military force.

Key to Man's Ultimate Destiny

The key to mankind's return to these basic principles lies in the conviction that Jesus is the Christ, veritably

the Son of God. Peoples of the world must be persuaded, as the scriptures testify, that Jesus was with his Father in the beginning. That, "all things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." (John 1:25). With this conviction, men must rededicate themselves to living Christ's teachings.

Repeatedly, throughout his life-time, Jesus tried to bring his disciples to an understanding of the fact that he was the Son of God the Saviour of the world. However, due to their blindness, most of his followers failed to grasp this divine fact, at least, until after his crucifixion and resurrection.

The New Testament, as its title implies, is a witness for Christ. Its pages contain His testimony and the testimony of His followers that He is the Son of God and that His teachings provide the only foundation upon which mankind can find joy and success in this life and exaltation in the life to come.

The Old Testament provides a history of God's dealings and covenants with His children. It, too, testifies of the coming of Christ, but its prophetic descriptions of this event are more general and are subject to interpretation. Probably the most specific prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the coming event of the birth and life of the Saviour are contained in the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah records the beautiful verse made so famous by Handel's "Messiah."

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

In his 53rd chapter, Isaiah records the details of the type of the life the Messiah would live. (See Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 53:1-2).

Several of David's Psalms also have been interpreted as referring to the coming of the Saviour. These Psalms record many prophecies which describe details of his life and teachings. (Footnote: See Psalms 2, 16, 34, 40, 45, 68, 72, 89, 110). There is a verse, also, in Deuteronomy which some scholars believe refers specifically to the coming of Christ. This scripture states, "*The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me: unto him ye shall hearken.*" (Deut. 18:15).

With very few other exceptions, however, the Old Testament is devoid of passages which can be interpreted with any degree of certainty as referring to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah. Other ancient records, however, which for one reason or another, never became a part of the cannon of the Bible do testify extensively of Christ and of his divinity as the Son of God. What are these ancient records? How do they testify of Christ? Why have they not become a part of the sacred scriptures? These are interesting and important questions.

Search the Scriptures

On one occasion, when the Jews were threatening to stone Jesus, he challenged them to—"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39).

The incident which prompted the Saviour to make this statement occurred in Jerusalem at the Pool of Bethesda. It will be remembered that Jesus had healed a lame man who had been waiting at this pool and had com-

manded him to, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." This was on the Sabbath and when the Jews found this man carrying his bed, they were about to stone him. The man told them that Jesus had healed him. They then sought out Jesus to slay him because he had done these things on the Sabbath. The Saviour chided the Jews for their superciliousness. He told them that the very scriptures they studied testified of him, saying, "for had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." (John 5:46).

It is interesting to ask the question, what were the scriptures written by Moses to which Christ referred? The New Testament, which testifies so extensively of the Saviour was not written, nor compiled, until many years after His crucifixion. In the Old Testament, it is generally believed that Moses was the author, or the compiler, of only the records now contained in the first five books of the Bible. These books cover the history from the beginning of the world until the time of Joshua. This period, of course, includes the history and writings of Enoch, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons—the twelve patriarchs. Therefore, any writings about these great prophets would normally be considered to be part of the documentary history written by Moses.

Recent Discovery of Ancient Records

Over the past century, ancient records now known as Pseudepigrapha, have been discovered in various places in Egypt and in the Middle East. The term "Pseudepigrapha" means, "uncertain writings" which may have been written pseudonymously—that is, by others than those whose names they carry as authors. These old records are now available in various libraries, museums and genizahs. A remarkable selection of these are in the British Museum.

As is now well known, some duplicates of these old "pseudepigrapha" have been found in the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. These old so-called pseudonymous records were as carefully stored away by the Dead Sea Covenanters as were the other books which now form a part of the Old Testament. This discovery has confirmed the belief, held by many scholars, that these old records were available and widely read and accepted as scriptures during the life-time of Jesus Christ. It is believed that the apostles Paul and John were greatly influenced, in their writings, by these old records, among which are the purported writings of Adam, Enoch, Noah and the Twelve Patriarchs. If Moses was the compiler of the history covering the lives of these great prophets and patriarchs, then it could have been to these books that Jesus referred when he said, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."

Undoubtedly, the Saviour referred to books other than those which we now have in the Old Testament. It is obvious that the records to which Jesus referred must have been well known to the Jews. Moreover, there must have been many references in these books to the coming of a Saviour. Yet, it is a fact, that in the first five books of the Old Testament the only passage which comes close to referring to Jesus is the statement in Deuteronomy that, "*The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy bretheren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.*" (Deut. 18:15). The only other references which could conceivably be

thus interpreted are contained in the generalised promises given to Abraham that through him and through his seed, all nations would be blessed. Or possibly, in the prophecy of Balaam that there would come a "Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptor shall rise out of Israel." (*See Genesis 18:18, Numbers 24:17-19*).

Does the Pseudepigrapha Testify of Christ?

The books known as the Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament are now available in the English translation. (Footnote: "Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament" by R. H. Charles, published by Oxford University Press).

Do any of these old records testify of Christ? Again, the question might be asked, could these old records have been among those to which the Saviour referred? The Charles opus is a large book consisting of over 800 pages of fine print. The author of this article has made a rather careful study of this tremendous volume and has counted over 500 passages which could refer to the coming of the Saviour. A few of these interesting "scriptures" are as follows:

From the Book of Enoch

"For from the beginning the Son of Man was hidden, and the Most High preserved him in the presence of His might, and revealed him to the elect. And the congregation of the elect and holy shall be sown, and all the elect shall stand before Him on that day."

"For I and My Son will be united with them (the children of the earth) forever in the paths of uprightness in their lives; and ye shall have peace: rejoice, ye children of uprightness." (Footnote: Book of Enoch, 48:9, 49:2,3., 62:7,8., 105:2 (Charles, pp. 217, 227, 228, 277. The phrases in parenthesis are believed by Charles to have been added to the original manuscripts).

From the Patriarch Simeon

"Then the Mighty One of Israel shall glorify Shem, for the Lord God shall appear an earth, and himself save men."

"For the Lord shall raise up from Levi as it were a High-Priest, and from Judah as it were a King. He shall save all (the Gentiles and) the race of Israel." (Footnote: The Testament of Simeon, 6:5, 7:1-3. (Charles, p. 303).

From the Patriarch Levi

"And by thee and Judah shall the Lord appear among men, saving every race of men. And from the Lord's portion shall be thy life, and He shall be thy field and vineyard."

"And behold I am clear from your ungodliness and transgression, which ye shall commit in the end of the ages (against the Saviour of the world, Christ, acting godlessly) deceiving Israel, and stirring up against it great evils from the Lord." (Footnote: The Testament of Levi, 2:11, 10:2 (Charles pp. 305, 310).

From the Patriarch Judah

"And after these things shall a star arise to you from Jacob in peace, and a man shall arise like a sun of righteousness, walking with the sons of men in meekness and righteousness: and no sin shall be found in him." (Footnote: The Testament of Judah, 24:1 (Charles, p. 323).

From the Patriarch Zebulon

"And after these things shall their arise unto you the Lord Himself, the light of righteousness, and ye shall return unto your land. And ye shall see Him in Jeru-

salem, for His name's sake." (Footnote: The Testament of Zebulon, 9:8 (Charles p. 331).

From the Patriarch Dan

"For the Lord shall be in the midst of it (Jerusalem) and the Holy One of Israel shall reign over it (in humility and in poverty and he who believeth on Him shall reign amongst men in truth)."

"And the things which ye have heard from your father, do ye impart to your children (that the Saviour of the Gentiles may receive you; for he is true and longsuffering, meek and lowly, and teacheth by his works the law of God)." (Footnote: The Testament of Dan, 5:13, 6:9 (Charles, p. 335).

From the Patriarch Asher

"Until the Most High shall visit the earth, coming Himself (as man, with men eating and drinking) and breaking the head of the dragon in the water. He shall save Israel and all the Gentiles." (Footnote: The Testament of Asher, 7:3 (Charles p. 345).

From the Patriarch Joseph

"And I saw that from (Judah was born) a virgin (wearing a linen garment, and from her) was born a lamb, (without spot); and on his left hand there was as it were a lion; and all the beasts rushed against him, and the lamb overcame them, and destroyed them and trod them under foot. And because of him the angels and men rejoiced, and all the land."

"Do ye therefore, my children, observe the commandments of the Lord, and honour Levi and Judah; for from them shall arise unto you (the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world) one who saveth (all the Gentiles and) Israel. For his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, which shall not pass away." (Footnote: Testament of Joseph, 19:8, 11 (Charles, pp. 353-354).

From the Patriarch Benjamin

"And the twelve tribes shall be gathered together there, and all the Gentiles, until the Most High shall send forth His salvation in the visitation of an only begotten prophet. (And He shall enter into the Temple and there shall the Lord be treated with outrage and He shall be lifted up upon a tree. And the evil of the temple shall be rent and the Spirit of God shall pass on to the Gentiles as fire poured forth. And he shall ascend from Hades and shall pass from earth into heaven. And I know how lowly He shall be upon the earth and how glorious in heaven)."

"Then shall we also rise, each one over our tribe, worshipping the king of heaven (who appeared upon earth in the form of a man in humility, And as many as believe on Him on the earth shall rejoice with Him).

"And also all men shall rise, some unto glory and some unto shame." (Footnote: Testament of Benjamin 9:2-4, 10:7-12 (Charles pp. 358-359).

From the Prophet Moses

"And receive thou this writing that thou mayest know how to preserve the books which I shall deliver unto thee: and thou shalt set these in order and anoint them with oil of cedar and put them away in earthen vessels in the place which He made from the beginning of the creation of the world, that His name should be called upon until the day of repentance in the visitation where-with the Lord will visit them in the consummation of the end of days." (Footnote: The Assumption of Moses, 1:16 (Charles, p. 415).

From the Zedokite records

"And through His Messiah He shall make them know His holy spirit, and he is true, and in the true interpretation of his name or their names."

"They shall not be reckoned in the assembly of the people, and in its register they shall not be written, from the day when there was gathered in the Unique Teacher until there shall arise the Messiah from Aaron and from Israel." (Footnote: Fragments of the Zedokite works, 2:10, 9:29 (Charles, pp. 804, 820).

(Footnote: Some of the material for this article, together with these selected quotations, have been adapted from and taken from the book, "How Old is Christ's Gospel?" by O. Preston Robinson, published by Deseret Book Company).

Why was the Pseudepigrapha excluded from the Bible?

As is well known, the Bible is a compilation of ancient records considered by certain scholars and compilers as authentic and sacred. In making this compilation, decisions had to be made in respect to those books which would be accepted as part of the canon and those which would be excluded. Over the centuries, there has been much controversy in respect to this selection. At times, certain books were included, only later to be excluded. For example, the Apocrypha are books which at one time were considered to be part of the canon of scriptures. Moreover, the Hebrew, the Catholic and the Protestant bibles do not contain exactly the same books.

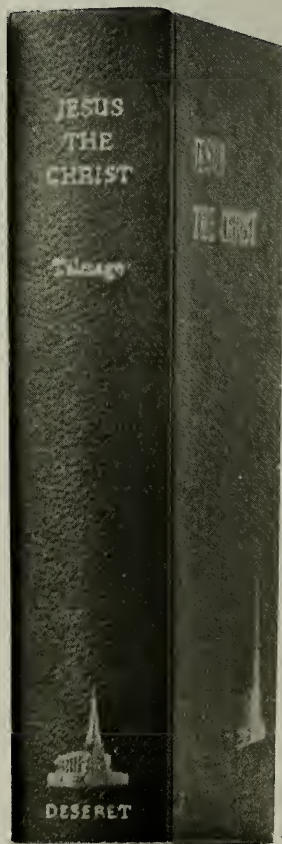
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints accepts the Bible insofar as it has been compiled and translated correctly. Joseph Smith, himself, on several occasions indicated that he believed many things had been changed and many important scriptures had been left out of the book . . . In respect to the Pseudepigrapha, Dr. Charles makes this interesting statement, "The citations of Enoch by the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs and by the Book of Jubilees shows that at the close of the second century B.C., and during the first century B.C., this book was regarded in certain circles as inspired." (Footnote: Charles, p. 165).

Also in respect to the Book of Enoch, Charles makes this comment:

"But our book contained much of a questionable character, and from the fourth century of our era onward it fell into discredit; and under the ban of such authorities as Hilary, Jerome, and Augustine, it was gradually passed out of circulation, and become lost to the knowledge of Western Christendom well over a century ago, when an Ethiopic virgin of the work was found in Abyssinia by Bruce, who brought home three manuscripts of it, from one of which Lawrence made the first modern translation of Enoch. (Footnote Charles, p. 163).

These ancient records, together with the Bible, supported so specifically and convincingly by the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price, provide ample evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour of the world. The world must come to this conviction. Man's ultimate destiny depends upon his return to "those lessons taught him close upon 2,000 years ago. This return can only come with acceptance of the fact that Jesus is the Christ.

**"Now read
Dr. James E. Talmage
on
JESUS
THE CHRIST"**





FROM: *Manchester
Airport*

TO: *General Conference
by charter flight*

The dreams that came true

**Reported by
Muriel Cuthbert**

FOR more than thirty years Lillian Fountain, of the Manchester Stake, cherished a dream of going to Salt Lake City. On September 28th, 1965, her dream, and that of many other British saints began to materialize. Manchester Airport was the gathering place for the saints from all over England, and the passenger lounge buzzed excitedly as they waited for the announcement of their flight.

Adventures began on the previous evening for Winifred Willmott (North London Ward). For her also this trip was a fulfillment of a 30-year-old dream, and in her determination not to miss the plane, she travelled up from London on the Monday evening, having no idea where she would spend the night. Inquiries at the Airport gave information of an expensive hotel nearby, and upon hearing Sister Willmott's reply that she could not afford that price, the kindly assistant, who was a complete stranger, said, "Come home with me and I will look after you." This young lady was deeply religious, and listened with interest about the flight and the Latter-day Saint teachings. They also knelt together in prayer, a wonderful spiritual experience at any time, but more so coming at the beginning of this trip.

Three other London sisters were not so fortunate and almost missed the plane. Sisters Archer, Overton and Sherington, arrived at London Air-

port at 6.30 a.m. Tuesday morning to find it shrouded in fog, and no planes taking off until noon. They made another unsuccessful bid to catch a train, but missed it by a few minutes. Finally they caught a flight and arrived at Manchester an hour after

our plane should have departed. Fortunately they were able to send a message on ahead and the plane waited for them. Brother and Sister Barber and their son John, of Oldham, discovered that their vaccination certificates had not been given the approved stamp by their local medical service, and they were all re-vaccinated by the Airport authorities.

At 2.55 p.m. with everyone on board, the Pan American Boeing 707, named especially for this great occasion "David O. McKay," taxied down the runway, and like a giant bird soared into the sky. We had hardly realised that we were flying when we landed at Prestwick, Glasgow, to pick up the Scottish Saints. Although it had been misty in Manchester, and raining in Scotland this could not

dampen the high spirits of those on board. As we left Glasgow and sped out across the Atlantic ocean the sun came out and shone continuously until well past mid-night by British time.

This sunshine, incidently, continued throughout our entire visit, and temperatures were between 70 and 80 degrees until the day we returned.

There were various reasons for making this flying visit, apart from attending the semi-annual Conference. Maureen Hoyle (Rochdale), the Manchester Stake Relief Society President, was attending the Relief Society Conference. John Bond, Leicester Stake Sunday School Superintendent, whose fare was paid by the Stake travel fund, expressed the sentiments of all on official assignments, and determined to absorb all he could from the Sunday School Conference and other meetings in order to improve the work back here. Ten-year-old Jonathan Green, son of Bishop Albert Green of Nottingham, was being taken by his father for special tests



CONTINUED ON PAGE 401



Above left: Sister Muriel Cuthbert (right) speaking to Bishop Johnson, Derby Ward, and his wife before embarking on the flight to Salt Lake City.

Above: Passengers waving goodbye to those they have left behind. A crowd of nearly 200 went to Manchester Airport to see the charter flight leave.

Left: President Ootes, Sunderland Stoke, and Sister Ootes in the departure lounge before the flight.



Above: Passengers line up for a group photograph before boarding their Boeing 707 jet-liner for the States.

Right: Brather Robinson, who was the oldest of the travellers, speaking to the youngest passenger.





Left: Passengers streaming off the jet clipper "David McKay" at the Salt Lake City Airport.

Below: Sister Winifred Stevens, the Relief Society President of Liverpool, being greeted at the airport by Brother and Sister Peacock, of Granger, and Brother and Sister Sessions, Los Angeles. Centre, Sister Kay Taylor.



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Above: Three former British Mission Presidents were at the airport to greet the visitors. Left to right, Presidents Andre K. Anastasian, Selva J. Boyer and Bernard P. Brackbank.

Right: Elder Stirling W. Sill, an Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, talking to President and Sister Bates and their family as they left the plane.



for Asthma at the Primary Children's Hospital. Others were going to visit friends, former-missionaries, or relatives that they had never seen. President Bates and his family were also attending the wedding of his sister Edna to Hefin Jones, a former Church builder, with Lynda as a bridesmaid. Muriel Cuthbert (Nottingham) was going to be present at the marriage of her eldest daughter Janis, to Vaughn C. Croft in the Salt Lake Temple. Joan Tennant's (Birmingham) trip was a gift from her husband in appreciation of the way she has raised their five children. For Barbara Heed (Glasgow Stake) it was in the nature of another honeymoon, simply because she was travelling with her husband. Bishop Ernest Preston, of Ashton-Under-Lyme, combined business with pleasure and took his whole family along for a holiday, so did Brother Mair of Peterhead.

For many it was a first flight, and we doubt if there has ever been a happier one; the atmosphere was typically that of a Mormon social oc-

casation, and everyone was walking about and talking to everyone else. Captain Wilson seemed impressed by the overall friendliness and allowed us to view inside his cabin during the flight, a very rare privilege. At one time at least twenty people were queueing to look around it.

We gained eight hours in time during the crossing and we were tired, but when we saw Salt Lake City twinkling like a million jewels in the darkness, we quickly revived, and were ready to disembark almost before the plane had stopped.

What a welcome! The Salt Lake Scots Pipe Band, in full Scottish regalia, played us down and off the plane. Hundreds of friends and relatives who had waited patiently for three hours for our arrival, cheered as they searched for their loved ones. They had enjoyed the reunions with each other while waiting, but now brothers and sisters who had not seen each other for thirty-eight years embraced each other.

Brother and Sister Slater (Manchester) were reunited with their married daughter whom they thought they would never see again. Winifred Stevens (Liverpool District) was greeted by President and Sister Sessions, former missionaries, who had converted and baptised her while strapped into a chair, ten years previously. Although still in a wheelchair she planned to walk into the Salt Lake Temple with them. Three former Mission Presidents also waited to greet us, President Andreas Anastasiou, Bernard P. Brockbank and Selvoy J. Boyer. Alice Hughes, North British Mission Relief Society President, was able to see her daughter and first grandchild.

You cannot imagine the joy, the wonderful spirit of love and warm welcome that we received in Zion. In the words of Stella Naylor (Doncaster), "Complete strangers were like brothers and sisters after the first handshake," and we felt at home straight away.

As we dispersed from the Airport many were driven straight to Temple Square to see the inspiring sight of the illuminated Temple — determined not to waste one precious moment.

Conference will long be remembered by all of us, especially how well our beloved prophet looked. He presided at every session and spoke twice, an inspiration to us all and a living testimony of the gospel. The eldest member of our flight, Brother H. Robinson (West Hull), aged 78 years, was able to obtain his autograph. Lawrence Gregson (Macclesfield) shook the prophet's hand and spoke with him for a few moments. Sister Coillier (Preston) had the unique experience of viewing the workings of the great tabernacle organ and playing a few notes.

Time went all too quickly, visits had been arranged to Welfare Square, Brigham Young University, and the Genealogical Vaults. Where ever we went we collected memories of sunshine, mountains, canyons, temples, great but humble men, inspired leadership, wide streets, cleanliness, and above all the great love and hospitality shown to us by our American brothers and sisters, all of whom we might add seemed to have some connections somewhere with our own wonderful country.

The day of our departure dawned cold and wet, the beautiful sunshine seemed to have arrived and departed with us and Sister Johnson (Derby) expressed the thoughts of many when she maintained that the Lord had sent this special weather as another blessing just for us. Many saints gathered again at the airport to wish us well on our journey home. Due to an accident during the after-

noon when a small plane crashed and damaged the main runway, our jet was unable to take off. We boarded four buses, waved farewell to our friends and were driven to the Hill Air Force Base, near Ogden, about 40 miles away, and took off from there.

Our flight home was uneventful but most enjoyable, everyone was full of praise for the Pan-American staff, and, pleased to be returning home, but hoping that another visit would be planned in a few years time. Another thought in our minds was to show our appreciation to President Bill Bates and his wife for making our dreams come true. Before we landed he was presented with a toy dog that had been signed by everyone on the flight, we are all deeply grateful to him.

We touched down at Manchester Airport at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 16th, and were soon reunited with our families. Peggy Mann (Crawley) expressed her feelings . . . "Wonderful experience. I wouldnt have missed it for the world. I am now quite satisfied to stay in England." As Dorothy Hamer (Rawtenstall) stated, "Everyone must have returned with a stronger testimony."

The whole of the British Isles should now benefit from the experiences of those who went on this first charter flight. They were not just lucky ones, they were people who worked, saved and dreamed. Evelyn Dunn (Eastwood) took advice from Kipling's poem "If"

"If you can dream and not make dreams your master,

If you can think and not make thoughts your aim . . ."

She realised that it is alright to dream, as long as you work to make your dreams come true. President Bates is a man who works to make his dreams reality.

For those who stayed at home, I would like to give the words of a popular song from "South Pacific"

... "You got to have a dream, if you don't have a dream,
How you going to make a dream come true?"

by President Bates

I SUPPOSE all "firsts" must carry risks, and my wife and I were naturally anxious throughout the preparations for this historic event. We have been most relieved to see the way things worked out, I'm sure with the influence of our Heavenly Father and the kindness and generosity of our American brothers and sisters.

We would like to express an appreciation to all who assisted in any way.

FROM SALT LAKE

Conference Report

The 135th Semi-Annual Conference was held in the Tabernacle in October. We print here the full text of the talks by the First Presidency, beginning here with that given at the opening session by President David O. McKay



Members queuing up at the doors of the Salt Lake Tabernacle waiting to go in for a Conference session.

BRETHREN and Sisters: It is truly a joy to meet with you this morning. I want to take this opportunity to thank you, and to tell you how grateful I am for your thoughtful solicitations, and your faith and prayers. God bless every one of you for your integrity and devotion to the work of the Lord! It is an honour and a continual joy to be associated with you in the Church of Jesus Christ!

We are grateful for the blessings of the Lord to His Church in all the world, for the assurance of His divine guidance and inspiration. With deep gratitude we acknowledge in your presence the Lord's nearness and His goodness, and in that spirit of prayerful appreciation, pro-

Two great forces...more potent than ever before — Hate and Love

claim that our souls respond in harmony with the glorious vision given to the Prophet Joseph Smith, "*Hear, O ye heavens, and give ear, O earth, and rejoice ye inhabitants thereof, for the Lord is God, and beside Him there is no other Saviour. Great is His wisdom, marvellous are His ways, and the extent of his doings none can find out. For thus saith the Lord—I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honour those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end.*" (Doctrine and Covenants 76:1-2, 5).

I deeply sense my inadequacy in trying to express in words the message I have in my heart this morning. I earnestly pray for your help and assistance, and especially for the inspiration of the Lord, that we may sense His presence during this Opening Session and all the sessions of this Conference. I am delighted to see these doorways crowded by interested listeners. It is a sight we all should take to heart, a manifestation of those who love the Lord and keep His commandments.

I cannot get my thoughts off the fact that there are two great forces in the world more potent than ever before, each force more determined to achieve success, more active in planning, and, on the one side—scheming—than ever before.

These two great forces are Hate and Love. Hate had its origin in our pre-existent state. There is a significant reference in the Apocalypse to "war in heaven." (*Revelation 12:4*). It is not only significant, but seemingly contradictory, for we think of Heaven as a celestial abode of bliss, an impossible condition where war and contention could exist. The passage is significant because it implies a freedom of choice and of action in the Spirit World. In the Pearl of Great Price we are given this account: "*Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down; And he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not harken unto my voice.*" (Moses 4:3-4).

Two things you will note in that passage—One, that Satan was determined to destroy the free agency of man. Free Agency is a gift of God. It is part of His divinity. The second point is that he desired to supplant God—I quote, "Give me Thy glory."

The world does not comprehend the significance of that divine gift to the individual. It is as inherent as intelligence which, we are told, has never been nor can be created.

In the spirit of hate, as is manifest today in the world, the very existence of God is denied, the free agency of man is taken from him, and the power of the State sup-

planted. I do not know that there was ever a time in the history of mankind when the Evil One seemed so determined to take from man his freedom.

A fundamental principle of the Gospel is Free Agency, and references in the scriptures show that this principle is (1) essential to man's salvation; and, (2) may become a measuring rod by which the actions of men, of organizations, of nations may be judged.

"Therefore," we are told in the scripture, "*cheer up your hearts, and remember that ye are free to act for yourselves—to choose the way of everlasting death or the way of eternal life.*" (2 Nephi 10:23).

"For the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things, and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves." (Doctrine and Covenants 104:17).

"Therefore, it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another. And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood." (Doctrine and Covenants 101:79-80).

"My independence is sacred to me," said Brigham Young "It is a portion of that same Deity that rules in the Heavens. There is not a being upon the face of the earth who is made in the image of God, who stands erect and is organized as God is, that should be deprived of the free exercise of his agency so far as he does not infringe upon other's rights, save by good advice and a good example."

The history of the world with all its contention and strife is largely an account of man's effort to free himself from bondage and usurpation.

Man's Free Agency is an eternal principle of progress, and any form of government that curtails or inhibits its free exercise is wrong—Satan's plan in the beginning was one of coercion, and it was rejected because he sought to destroy the agency of man which God had given him.

When man uses this God-given right to encroach upon the rights of another, he commits a wrong. Liberty becomes license, and the man, a transgressor. It is the function of the State to curtail the violator and to protect the individual.

Next to the bestowal of life itself, the right to direct our lives is God's greatest gift to man. Freedom of choice is more to be treasured than any possession earth can give. It is inherent in the spirit of man. It is a divine gift to every normal being. Whether born in abject poverty, or shackled at birth by inherited riches, everyone has the most precious of all life's endowments—the gift of free agency, man's inherited and inalienable right. It is the impelling source of the soul's progress. It is the purpose of the Lord that man become like Him. In order for man to achieve this, it was necessary for the Creator first to make him free. To man is given a special endowment, not bestowed upon any other living thing. God gave to him the power of choice. Only to the human being did the Creator say: "*... thou mayest choose for thyself, for it is given unto thee ...*" (Moses 3:17). Without this divine power to choose, humanity cannot progress.

With free agency, however, there comes responsibility. If man is to be rewarded for righteousness and punished for evil, then common justice demands that he be given the power of independent action. A knowledge of good and evil is essential to man's progress on earth.

If he were coerced to do right at all times, or were helplessly enticed to commit sin, he would merit neither a blessing for the first nor punishment for the second. Man's responsibility is correspondingly operative with his free agency. Actions in harmony with divine law and the laws of nature will bring happiness, and those in opposition to divine truth, misery. Man is responsible not only for every deed, but also for every idle word and thought.

Freedom of the will and the responsibility associated with it are fundamental aspects of Jesus' teachings. Throughout His ministry He emphasized the worth of the individual and exemplified what is now expressed in modern revelation as "his work and his glory." (*Moses 1:39*). Only through the divine gift of soul freedom is such progress possible.

Force rules in the world today. Individual freedom is threatened by international rivalries and false political ideals. Unwise legislation, too often prompted by political expediency, if enacted, will seductively undermine man's right of free agency, rob him of his rightful liberties, and make him but a cog in the crushing wheel of regimentation.

Though it is not a pleasing thought, we must realize that over half the world is under the influence of hate, as manifest by the Chinese leader, manifest by the Communist group in Russia, and manifest in Cuba. Accompanying the spirit of hate is the denial of the existence of God. Satan was cast down because he tried to replace the Creator. But his power is still manifest. He is active and is prompting at this moment the denial of God's existence, the existence of His Beloved Son, denying the efficacy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Associated Press sometime ago related some instances that are taking place in China to change men's minds in a nation of over six-hundred million people, whose hearts, whose minds have been changed as far as they could be changed of hate. Forty-five or fifty years ago there was the spirit of tolerance and respect in China for Americans. In a school at Peking, which was fostered by Americans, I personally saw some of the most active young men in junior high school that I have ever seen in my life. I have never seen more courtesy in any country in the world. Today all that is changed. The Associated Press made this report:

A decade ago Mao Tze-Tung's newly-created People's Republic of China threw its Red Shadow across an alarmed Asia. Today, the lengthening Shadow has crept half-way across the earth to the Americas. No one can say with certainty where it will stop . . . In his sixty-sixth year this round-faced, lofty-browed son of peasants has been raised by his Communist followers to the eminence of a demi-god. His words, actions and even his thoughts are holy writ for 630 million people. He is one of the most powerful men on earth, and much of his power based on the most debilitating of human emotions hate. Hatred for the United States, hatred for rich landlords, for counter-revolutionaries, for Chiang Kai-shek, hatred for everyone who fails to conform. 'Hatred,' said a traveller recently returned from Mao's China, 'has become an institution, particularly hatred for the United States. It is horrible to see this vast human machinery run by only one fuel—hatred! If it used love instead, it could become the most powerful nation on earth.' (Associated Press, appear-

ing in the Salt Lake Tribune, Sunday, December 11th, 1960).

In the spirit of hate these men would supplant God. In the spirit of hate they deny His existence. They deny the existence of His Only Begotten Son. They would destroy the free agency of man. Here, in the spirit of love, we praise His name, and teach His precepts.

Let us for a moment or two consider Jesus, the man of love. He revered and worshipped God, and is Himself revered and worshipped by all Christian nations and classes of individuals. "Whatever may be the surprises of the future," writes Renan, "Jesus will never be surpassed."

Millions of people, speaking different languages and cherishing various ideals, worship Him and revere Him today. We revere Him because His wisdom and spirituality comprehend and exceed that of all others. He it is who said, "*I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*" (*John 8:12*) He also said to His disciples, "*I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*" (*John 13:15*).

First, in the spirit of Love, let us consider Jesus' attitude toward God. That is the great question before the world today. The Communists deny Him. Mao ridicules Him, and they have poisoned untold millions of minds against Christ.

What about Jesus as manifest in the flesh? In announcing His birth the Heavenly Hosts sang, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men." In that message this is Godliness, Peace, Brotherly kindness!

Godliness, Jesus exemplified every hour of His earthly existence. On the banks of the Jordan at the beginning of His ministry, we hear Him say to John, the forerunner: "*Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.*" (*Matthew 3:15*).

On the Mount of Temptation, which rises just above the Jordan where Jesus was baptized, He was tempted by that Tempter who tried to supplant God; tempted with all the things of earth and the power thereof. We hear Him say in sublime majesty, "*Get thee hence, Satan: or it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.*" (*Matthew 4:10*).

When He taught the disciples to pray, he included in the first petition Godliness, "Hallowed be Thy name."

Addressing the Twelve at the Last Supper, He said, "*This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent.*" (*John 17:3*).

That is the spirit of love, the spirit of faith in God the Creator of Heaven and earth through His Beloved Son. He is worshipped by His only Begotten Son.

What about the condition of Peace?

"Peace has been defined as the happy blessings." Without it there can be no happiness, and "happiness," said the Prophet Joseph Smith, "is the object and design of our existence; and will be the end thereof if we pursue the path that leads to it."

Jesus said, "*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" (*John 16:33*).

On the same occasion, He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." All through His life peace was on His lips and in His heart, and when He came forth from the

tomb, and appeared unto His disciples, His first greeting was, "Peace be unto you."

Peace as taught by the Saviour is exemption from individual troubles, from family broils, from national riots and difficulties. Such peace refers to the person just as much as it does to communities. That man is not at peace who is untrue to the whisperings of Christ, the promptings of his conscience. He cannot be at peace when he is untrue to his better self when he transgresses the law of righteousness, either in dealing with himself by indulging in passions or appetites, in yielding to the temptations of the flesh, or whether he is untrue to trust in transgressing the law.

Peace does not come to the transgressor of law. Peace come by obedience to law, and it is that message which Jesus would have us establish among men—peace to the individual that he may be at peace with his God; perfect harmony existing between his Creator and himself; perfect harmony existing between himself and law, the righteous laws to which he is subject and from which he never can escape; peace in the home—families living at peace with each other and with their neighbours.

There are some who would say His teachings are not applicable today.

A few years ago there was a boy among boys who saw Him, who heard Him and received His teachings. Joseph Smith saw the Redeemer, and he has given that testimony to the world; he has recorded His message, and emphasized again the eternal truth that Christ's teachings are divine, and as applicable to the civilized world today as to the people among whom Jesus walked and talked.

Fundamental in all Christ's teachings was the crime of wrong thinking. He condemned avarice, enmity, hate, jealousy as vehemently as He did the results that avarice, enmity, and hate produce. Modern psychology, as all students know, proves the virtue of such teachings regarding the injury that follows the harbouring of hate. He who harbours hatred and bitterness injures himself far more than the one towards whom he manifests these evil propensities.

Equally applicable to present conditions are His teachings regarding the value and sacredness of human life, the virtue of forgiveness, the necessity of fair dealings, the crime of hypocrisy, the sin of covetousness, the saving power of love, the immortality of man.

If men ever reject the fact that Christ is our Lord and Saviour, and fill their souls with hatred as that nation of over six-hundred million people are compelled to do and not only to deny Christ, but to deny that His mission is to redeem man from the sordid life of selfish indulgence and sin, and lift him into a realm shown only by Him of self-sacrifice, generosity, beauty, and love; if the majority of nations fail to recognize Christ as the only "name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (*Acts 4:12*), if doubting men reject the possibility of obtaining that spiritual assurance of Christ's divinity disclosed by Thomas when He reverently exclaimed: "My Lord and my God" (*John 20:28*); if the acts of men generally be in accordance with such rejection rather than in accordance with their acceptance of Him as the Divine One, then this world will continue to be torn by contention, made miserable by hideous warfare, and ignominiously wrecked on the shoals of materialism, selfish indulgence, and disbelief and hatred.

Without Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified Christ, the

Risen Lord, the trates of the jungle will hold the human family in bondage.

In conclusion, the obligation and duty rests upon the Church of Jesus Christ to proclaim the mighty truth that the Man of Galilee, the Resurrected Christ, is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life—that He is in very deed the Saviour of all mankind.

Pernicious efforts and sinister schemes are cunningly and stealthily being fostered to deprive man of his individual freedom, and have him revert to the life of the jungle. With faith in the revealed word of God, let all true believers in individual freedom cherish the spiritual ideals of the Christ, and ever strive to make real the dream that all men shall be free. That this condition may soon be possible and real, and that men may strive to bring it about, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Our duty to be loyal citizens

by President Hugh B. Brown

DURING the sessions of this conference, we have heard from many speakers who have discussed various inspiring subjects. We who speak in later sessions find that what we had intended to say has already been discussed, but there is one subject I would like to mention. We believe in peace, patriotism, and loyalty, and the fact that America is a chosen land, preserved and discovered under divine inspiration, with a Constitution which we believe was inspired and which we must, under all circumstances, maintain.

As this is a world-wide Church, we counsel our members wherever they may live in other Christian countries, to be patriotic and loyal to their homeland. Whatever may be said here about America, therefore, is not intended to reflect adversely on others, but should be understood by members of the Church living in other countries as an appeal to all for loyalty and good citizenship.

Occasionally we hear derogatory statements about our government and ominous forebodings about the future of America. We are concerned when we see evidence of doubt, misgivings and lack of confidence in the future of America as she faces current problems. We believe, however, that all good citizens of this country have a deep heart-felt gratitude for the abundant blessings showered upon us by a benevolent Father.

I should not like to be one of those who refuses to recognise the challenge of the problems of our times. On the other hand, I refuse to be numbered amongst those who are losing faith in America.

Let us remind you that the people of every country of every age and time throughout history have had to face up to problems and find their solutions. We believe that in the exercise of the freedom her people enjoy and with

divine guidance, she will have full capability to solve any problems she encounters

This conclusion is not just our own. Our Heavenly Father has given us encouraging promises concerning this land. Six hundred years before the birth of Christ, He called this a land of promise to the people of our generation. However, he made an important condition: "... If they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ . . ." (*Ether 2:12*) It is that we would like to emphasize.

To the ancient inhabitants of this continent, He said: *Wherefore I will consecrate this land unto thy seed, and them who shall be numbered among thy seed, forever, for the land of their inheritance; for it is a choice land, saith God unto me, above all other lands, wherefore I will have all men that dwell thereon that they shall worship me, saith God.* —II Nephi 10:19.

We believe and have confidence in these words of the Lord. They bring us a message of confidence and hope. Each of us has the right to rely fully upon them, for he has said: "I will fulfill my promises which I have made unto the children of men." (*II Nephi 10:17*).

Further reason for confidence is found in modern revelation wherein the Lord said that He had established the Constitution of the United States by the hands of wise men whom he raised up unto this very purpose. The constitutional framework of the law of this land has been the study of legal scholars and statesmen the world over. In no other document is the right and dignity of man lifted to so high a plane. Principles of freedom are inherent and fundamental to every concept. This did not just happen. To us the Constitution of the United States is God-given to the people of a promised land. In the October issue of National Geographic Magazine, Professor Freidel of Harvard University, calls attention to two of our great presidents. I quote:

"In the first two decades of the 20th Century, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson endowed the American presidency with a powerful leadership the nation had not known since Lincoln. Several of their successors gave nostalgic tugs backward, but these two—one a Republican, the other a Democrat—established a pattern for succeeding strong Presidents.

"At home both sought a larger measure of political democracy and economic justice, and abroad a share in responsibility for world order. They moved to assume the sober duties of the United States in its new status as an industrial giant and major world power.

"Both these Presidents and their supporters, the progressive generation, believed that, without abandoning the free-enterprise system, they could perfect the dream of the Founding Fathers by combining a scientific approach to the problems of the age with positive government action."

We should understand that each of us has a duty to honour, support, and sustain our civil leaders and the law. The fact that everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion insofar as various matters of law and government are concerned does not relieve anyone of us of the personal responsibility to obey, honour and sustain the elected governmental officers and the law which it is their duty to administer.

Unfortunately there are those among us today who advocate breaking the law as one means of calling to the

attention of the nation that some have not been given the full benefit of the law. They argue that the laws they break are minor and that the breach is useful and justified because it assists in the enforcement of a greater law.

This reasoning is fallacious and inconsistent with Christian principles. To follow such thinking is to decide that every man is entitled to choose which law he will abide and which he will violate. No orderly society can be established thereon. There are lawful ways and means of securing all human rights, and one does not foster Christian virtue through irresponsible breaking of the law.

Seeds of anarchy are sowed in the minds of those who follow a lawless course. Anarchy was never the way of God but rather the way of Satan.

Recent riots in various parts of our country emphasize this alarming trend. These lawless demonstrations are often instigated and led by misguided youth against authority, against discipline, against the orderly government of society and every symbol of authority. Let us heed the words of that vigorous patriot, Theodore Roosevelt, who said, "We are the government, you and I."

I quote a paragraph from *Destiny Magazine*:

"Let us always remember that the planting of America in the strain that determined our country's character was a spiritual planting. The fathers who planted this nation were Christians. They came here as Christians. They came because they were Christians. They came on a specifically Christian venture. Get it fixed in your mind that the planting that determined the genius of America was a Church—not a town, nor a colony, not a trading of exploring venture, not a gold rush, but a church, a little Pilgrim church crossed the sea for the sake of its church life. That is the origin of the United States."

To those who are losing faith in America, to those who criticize her, we issue this challenge: Cast your eyes to the four corners of the earth. Can you see anything to compare with her. Where do you find greater evidence of freedom. In what land do the inhabitants have greater voice in governing themselves. Where do you see a way of life which has produced a greater abundance for its people. In which country do you find greater numbers of children receiving an excellence of education to surpass that which is to be found here. Where is there less want, less misery. Where in all the world do you find men who are given comparable rights to enjoy their freedom to worship as that freedom finds expression in the land of America. Can you really doubt that this land is in very deed a land of promise.

Let all men of good will, offer constructive criticism to assist this great land of freedom in the solving of her problems. There will be problems, to be sure, but let these problems be solved with mature deliberation. Let those who speak out speak in fairness. Let these problems and their proposed solutions be discussed in honest debate. All too often those who debate her issues distort and magnify all out of proportion the subject of their concern.

More than any other people, members of this Church, having the prophecies of God before them, ought to know that America is not going to fail, that the God of Heaven will not permit it if her people will but serve the God of this land. She has a great destiny yet to fulfill. Imperfect though she may be, she is, nevertheless, the hope of the world. Men of faint heart and blurred vision

may from time to time lose sight of this fact. The fact itself, however, is immutable.

America has thus far been preserved because she is built upon a sound foundation, which was ordained of God Himself. She is the cradle of freedom prepared by Him for the restoration of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let all who have permitted discouragement or despair to enter into their hearts take renewed hope and courage. Let all honest men everywhere rally and support the cause of freedom and justice under the law.

Surely as we face the future there is reason for concern, but there is no reason for despair. Let us find a reason to lift, to build and to uphold. Let us shrink from those whose only contribution, is to complain, to condemn and to destroy. To win the future will require men of faith, of courage and of purpose. The Lord God of Heaven will prosper and gloriously support such men. He will, however, find little reason to consider the activities of those who are barren and unproductive, who simply criticize, complain and deplore. America needs leaders who have eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to understand. In their hand she will be preserved.

I would hope that they will recognize in her not only a great but a Divinely inspired form of government. They will understand that she is adaptable to changing times. They will know that she has the capacity to maintain fundamental integrity while meeting the needs of a world in motion. They must be wise enough to know that she will not always be infallible, but they will have faith that once the error of her ways is made known she will return again to a wiser course of action. She will not stray far, for though the vision of her leaders may become obscure at times, the steady hand of God will tide this nation through the troubled waters that may lie ahead.

The late Dr. Adam S. Bennion left us the following thoughtful statement:

"America has become a great nation because the men who builded her believed in her—loved her—sacrificed for her. That same patriotism and pride, if kept vigorously alive, can carry us through our present crisis to even greater heights."

"The heart of America is sound. There are ills, of course. There are base men and mean. There always have been. But the land is full of honest, toiling men, and worthy, devoted women. Let's herald their integrity as well as proclaim the evils of our social structure."

Then let us prepare for the future unafraid. Let faith replace fears. Let courage dispell gloom. Let hope triumph over despair, and let faith in God the Eternal Father reign supreme above all our works for it is to him above all others that we owe final allegiance. The plain duty of our lives is to conduct ourselves that more and more of His children will desire Him and His ways. One day the world will come to recognize that the jewel in the crown of America which surpasses all others is the jewel of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, because through it men can come to know that their Father in Heaven is real, that He loves them, and that He has prepared a place for them. If they but follow the path that leads to the straight gate, the joy that transcends all other joy awaits them.

Concerning this jewel, I would like to make this further statement to our friends who have joined us today. To a modern prophet, the Lord revealed to the world that a great and marvellous work was about to come forth among the children of men. He said that the field was

white already to harvest in the re-establishment of His Church upon the earth. He exhorted all his children everywhere to ask Him and promised that they should receive. He said, "If ye will knock, it shall be opened unto you." He further counselled those to whom the message came to keep His commandments and to seek to bring forth and established the cause of Zion. He counselled us to seek not for riches but for wisdom, and in so doing the mysteries of God would be unfolded unto us.

We humbly advise you that this great and marvellous work is going forth in many parts of the earth today. In excess of twelve thousand young missionaries are labouring in your communities throughout the world. In their hearts burns a desire to speak with you, and they are anxious to tell you the full storey of the restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are anxious to bring you evidence that our Father in Heaven, the Father of all the inhabitants of the earth, is very real and that man was literally created in His image. These missionaries wish to share their knowledge of the risen Christ with you. They would like you to know that He is a being separate and distinct from His Father and that He actually lives today. He has restored to the earth the fullness of His gospel, including the full organizational structure of His kingdom.

These missionaries of the Church are likewise anxious to share their knowledge of the destiny of mankind, of the glorious things He has prepared for all His children who will give heed to His voice, who will follow Him in the plain path which He has made known.

May I invite you to inquire of these missionaries of the Church concerning this marvellous work that they might make full explanation to you of the great message which has been revealed to the earth.

I cannot leave this subject without a sincere and heartfelt prayer that the spirit of Almighty God shall be upon all men everywhere. May our lofty institutions, our matchless Constitution, love of freedom and liberty be noted by other nations and insofar as they can be made applicable, be adopted by them that all men everywhere may join us in singing, what might well become an international anthem, "Our father's God to thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing. Long may our land be bright with Freedom's holy light. Protect us by thy might, Great God, our King!" That all may become the special concern of providential care, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Laws are made to protect us

by President N. Eldon Tanner

PRESIDENT McKay, brothers and sisters, and all who are listening in, it is a real privilege and blessing to partake of the peaceful spirit of this great Conference, to be

instructed by these devoted men, and to be inspired to greater faith and better living.

We thank the Lord that our beloved leader, President David O. McKay, through the magnifying of his calling, has been sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of his body which makes it possible for him to be with us today. People were never more inspired by a Prophet of God than are we by his presence here, his stirring message yesterday morning, and his inspired leadership. We join in praying that he may continue to improve in health and strength. I thank the Lord for the privilege I enjoy of associating so closely with him and with these, my dedicated colleagues.

Just five years ago this month I was honoured by a call from the Prophet to be an assistant to the Council of the Twelve. As most of you know, I am a Canadian citizen. Though I love Canada, a country which was good to me in every way, and which is taking its proper place in the world, and is a strong proponent of liberty and freedom for all, I am planning, as soon as I can qualify, to become a citizen of the United States of America.

As I become a citizen of this great country, I am determined to join with all law-abiding citizens and dedicate myself to this nation's ideals of equality and justice under law, and to our responsibilities as free men. I am seriously concerned, however, about the lawlessness in the world today, and right here in the United States. As a prospective citizen, and in the position I hold in the Church, I should like to speak for a few minutes on our Twelfth Article of Faith, which is:

We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honouring and sustaining the law.

It is the duty of every citizen to be sincerely concerned with his country's efforts to advance freedom and individual opportunity, to curb lawlessness and to achieve equal justice. The Church makes its position quite clear in its Declaration of Belief regarding governments and laws, some of which are as follows:

We believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man; and that he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, both in making laws and administering them, for the good and safety of society.

We believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life.

We believe that all men are bound to sustain and uphold the respective governments in which they reside, while protected in their inherent and inalienable rights by the laws of such governments; and that sedition and rebellion are unbecoming every citizen thus protected, and should be punished accordingly . . .

We believe that every man should be honoured in his station, rulers and magistrates as such, being placed for the protection of the innocent and the punishment of the guilty; and that to the laws all men owe respect and deference, as without them peace and harmony would be supplanted by anarchy and terror . . .

We believe that the commission of crime should be punished according to the nature of the offence; that murder, treason, robbery, theft, and the breach of the general peace, in all respects, should be punished accord-

ing to their criminality and their tendency to evil among men, by the laws of that government in which the offence is committed; and for the public peace and tranquility all men should step forward and use their ability in bringing offenders against good laws to punishment.

(D. & C. 134: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8)

As pointed out by the President of the United States in his Proclamation on Law Day, our lives, our liberty, and our rights to pursue our individual destinies are dependent upon our system of law and independent courts.

Laws are not made alone to curb the evil-doer, or as negative restraint, but to protect the rights and liberties of every citizen. As John C. Cornelius said "Laws are the rules by which the game of life is played." There is no reason or justification for men to disregard the law and try to take it into their own hands.

Abraham Lincoln once said:

Bad laws if they exist, should be repealed as soon as possible; still, while they continue in force, they should be religiously observed.

Christ, himself, while here upon the earth, was one of our greatest examples of a law-abiding citizen. When he was asked by those who were trying to discredit him, "What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto caesar, or not?" his answer was, "Render . . . unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. (Matt. 22:17-21).

And even when he was being tried for his life he maintained a submissive demeanor toward the chief priests and council who were plotting his death. When he stood before Caiaphas he remained silent and made no reply to the questions asked until the high priest said: "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." (Matt. 26:63). When he spoke thus with official authority the Saviour gave an immediate answer, thus acknowledging the office of the high priest, however unworthy the man.

Someone wisely said:

To us the law is the bedrock of our basic ideals: democracy, freedom, justice. However, from day to day most of us take our law for granted. We forget about it until we need it or break it, but law looks over our shoulders constantly, seldom intruding on us, so much a part of our lives that it has become more of a guide than a restriction, more protection than threat of punishment.

In our democratic countries everyone has the right:

- a. To a good education.
- b. To live where he pleases.
- c. To choose his vocation.
- d. To a secret ballot.
- e. To own property.
- f. To start his own business.
- g. To a fair and speedy trial if accused of crime.
- h. To worship according to the dictates of his own conscience.

These rights, privileges and blessings are just not available to those who live in the Communist countries. It is a great privilege and blessing to live in a country where all people, regardless of race, religion, or national origin, can live together in peace and prosperity; where we have established a form of law by free men for the good of all; where all men enjoy the inalienable right to be free and self-governed.

Abraham Lincoln admonished:

Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books, and almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all sexes and tongues and colours and conditions sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars.

That is a small price to pay for liberty and the other blessings enjoyed in a free country. Let us fully realize that we adults can break no law with impunity without our children losing respect for the law. The juvenile delinquent is in trouble because he has not learned the importance of abiding by the law, or he has not learned to adjust his conduct to the standards of the community of which he is a part.

Some causes of the delinquents' troubles are:

- a. Disregard for law in the home.
- b. Lack of discipline in the home.
- c. Example of adults.
- d. Expressed sympathy for criminals and criticism of police.
- e. And last but not least, failure to accept Christ as the Saviour of the world, and failure to keep the laws of God.

The only solution for these problems is for adults to honour the law of God and the law of the land and to cultivate in our youth an understanding of and respect for the rules of civilised living which make an orderly society possible. A voluntary acceptance of the law is the civilized substitute for riots, chaos and terror.

Though we hear much about the juvenile delinquent, I have every confidence in our youth, and often wish that I could live long enough to see how much better they administer public affairs than they are being administered today. However, they need guidance, example, encouragement and discipline.

I should like to read "A Modern American Fable," by Al. McFintosh.

One day, when Junior was 14, he noticed his father grinning all over when he came from his office. "Got pinched for speeding," he admitted, "but got Jake down at the City Hall to fix the ticket for me."

When Junior was 15, he was with his mother in the family car when she backed into a tree. The damage would easily exceed 100. "We'll say that someone rammed us when we were parked downtown," his mother said. "Then we'll collect insurance for it, because that's what insurance companies are really for." . . .

When Junior was 17, he listened one night to his lawyer uncle bragging about how cute he'd been in getting his client off scot-free in a court case. "It took a little high-class arm twisting on one of the witnesses," he bragged, "and by the time he got to court, we had it made. Even if you know they're guilty, you never want to plead them guilty, because you can't make any money that way," said the uncle.

When Junior was 18, his family pulled every possible string to get him a paying scholarship at a coveted Ivy League school. They even storied about the family income, to make it seem that Junior needed financial aid. He didn't make the grade there, but

by a stroke of luck he wangled an appointment to a service academy.

Junior was having it a bit tough scholastically. An upper-classman sold him the answers to the calculus examinations, Junior was caught, and expelled.

On his return home, his mother went into hysterics weeping over the disgrace. "How could you have done this to us," she sobbed "This isn't the way we raised you!"

"Unbelievable," said his father. "I can't understand it!"

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(Copied from Good Reading, August, 1965.)

We as citizens, each and every one of us, including our youth, have a heavy responsibility to obey and enforce the law. Imagine what our country would be today without law!

- a. No traffic regulations.
 - b. No marriage laws.
 - c. No property rights.
 - d. No police protection.
 - e. No courts of justice.
- Yet we find all too many people are:
- a. Rushing to beat an amber light.
 - b. Speeding on the highways.
 - c. Driving while intoxicated.
 - d. Ignoring marriage vows.
 - e. Carrying on illegal demonstrations and rioting.
 - f. Collecting undeserved unemployment insurance, etc.

In a recent case a 16-year-old boy obtained alcohol from the State Liquor store, and under its influence he stole a truck, and crashed into a parked taxi causing severe injuries to the driver. Since the regulations forbid the sale of liquor to those under 21, the government employee who sold the liquor broke the law and contributed to juvenile delinquency.

Just the other day a drunken driver, ran a red light, crashed into another car, killing two people, ruining the two cars and injuring other passengers. What tremendous loss to him and to the families of those who lost their lives, and what great and lasting sorrow because of ignoring the law! We have cases every day where people are suffering because of disobedience to the law.

Freedom, liberty and peace can be fully enjoyed only as the laws of the land and the laws of God are honoured and obeyed. Therefore let us adopt the slogan: "As for me and my house, we will honour, obey and sustain the law, and use our best influence to encourage others to do the same."

Let us remember, too, and never forget, that if we keep the laws of God, the greatest of all law-givers, we will automatically keep laws of the land and that the laws of God, if kept will ensure peace, security and happiness here on this earth, and lead us to immortality and eternal life.

Some of these commandments given by the Lord are:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neigh-

bour's.

And when the lawyer asked the Master, tempting him: Master, which is the great commandment of the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:36-40).

We are most fortunate, my brethren and sisters, to know that the law of God is contained in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; that the gospel gives us the plan of life and salvation, the solution to all our problems, and which, if accepted and lived, will bring peace to the soul, peace to the country and to the world, and which would GUARANTEE HEALTH, LOVE, AND HAPPINESS, SUCCESS AND ETERNAL LIFE.

I wish to bear my testimony to you, my brothers and sisters, and to all the world that these things are true; that the gospel in its fullness has been restored in these, the latter days; that the Priesthood of God is upon the earth; that God does live and that Jesus Christ is his Son, who came and gave his life for you and me; and that they are interested in us today. There is no doubt that the Saviour meant what he said in these words: "... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33.)

May we accept these truths and as free men honour, obey and sustain the law of the land in which we live, and obey the laws of God, that we might be found worthy of the country in which we live and worthy of Eternal Life, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Prophet's testimony

(Remarks by President David O. McKay at the closing session of the 135th Semi-Annual Conference of the Church held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

MY dear Brethren and Sisters, as we come to this parting hour, I should like to say to you that the teachings and life of the Master never before seemed to me more beautiful, more necessary, and more applicable to human happiness than they are today. Never have I believed more firmly in the perfection of humanity as the final result of man's placement here on earth. With my whole soul I accept Jesus Christ as the personification of human perfection—as God made manifest in the flesh, as the Saviour and Redeemer of mankind, excepting Him as my Redeemer, Saviour, and Lord. I accept His Gospel as the Plan of Salvation, as the one perfect way to happiness and peace. There is not a principle which was taught by Him but seems to me to be applicable to the growth, development, and happiness of

mankind. Everyone of His teachings seems to me to touch the true philosophy of living. I accept them with all my heart.

So it is with the Church which Christ has established. Every phase of it is applicable to the welfare of the human family—thus do Christ and His Church become my ideal, my inspiration in life. I think it is the highest ideal for which man can strive.

Let us strive so earnestly to represent Him or to follow Him that our spirits may be eternally young. If thoughts affect the physical being, might it be true that eternal truths will contribute to the eternal nature of the spirit within? On the night of His betrayal, the Saviour said: "*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*" (John 17:3). And how may we know of the doctrine, Jesus answered, "*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*" (John 7:17).

Wisdom comes through effort. All good things require effort. That which is worth having will cost part of your physical being, your intellectual power, and your soul power—"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew 7:7). But you have to ask, you have to seek, you have to knock. On the other hand, sin thrusts itself upon you—it entices, it allures. You do not have to put forth effort. It is like the poor, fallen woman, who lies in wait to deceive. It is like the billboard advertising, attracting you to drink and to smoke. It is like the message that comes into your very homes with the television and radio, or the golden packet put right into your hand. It seeks you, and it requires effort and fortitude to combat it. But truth and wisdom are gained only by seeking, by prayer, and by effort.

We cannot be true to ourselves and to our loved ones, to our associates, without feeling a determination to know more about this great truth to which testimonies have been borne here throughout this conference. The spirit within bears testimony that truth exists in this old world.

"Whom seek ye?" were the first words that Christ uttered to some of His Twelve, as they approached Him one day on the banks of the Jordan, and they answered: "Master, where abideth thou?"

I ask the youth of the Church—"Whom do you seek?" Would you keep that youth? Then love the Lord your God with all your mind, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and though the body becomes decrepit and like an old house begins to tumble, your spirit will still be young, as young as the little babe that might be in that tumbled-down house, because your body, after all, is but the house in which you live. Even when your heart stops beating, your eyelids close, and you respond no more to your physical environment, that spirit, still young, will go into the presence of Him whom you have made your ideal.

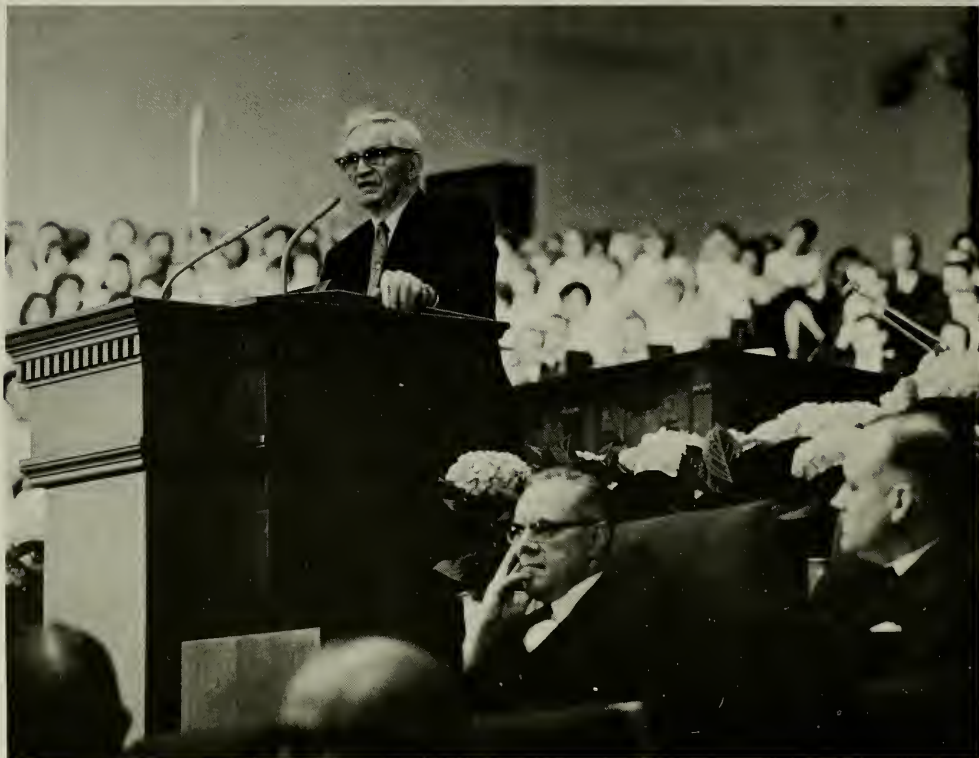
Then truly will it be demonstrated that—

"The stars shall fade away, the sun himself
Grow dim with age, and Nature sink in years;
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,

The wreck of matter, and the crash of worlds."

(Joseph Addison—"Cato," Act V, Scene 1.)

And now, this great conference draws to a close. Our anticipation, our hopes, and our prayers that it might



President McKay bearing his testimony at Conference.

prove to be uplifting and inspirational have been realized, and for that we are grateful to our Heavenly Father, grateful for the inspiration He has given to us and to the world! Truly, our hearts have been filled with gratitude that the Lord has magnified each one to the end that His word has been spoken.

As we leave to go to our various homes, let us make real the good feelings that have been aroused in our souls. Let us not permit to evaporate from our minds and feeling the good resolutions we have formed. Let us resolve that from now on we are going to be men of higher and more sterling character, more conscious of our own weaknesses, more kind and charitable towards others' failings. As we depart, let us be more determined to be kinder husbands, more thoughtful wives, more exemplary to our children, more determined that in our homes we are going to have just a little taste of Heaven here on earth.

Cherish in your hearts the testimony of Truth, make it as solid and as firm and unwavering as the fixed stars in the Heavens. May there come into everyone's heart and in all our homes the true spirit of Christ, our Redeemer, whose reality, whose inspiring guidance I know to be real. May a kind Heaven help us to cherish worthy ideals and noble aspirations. Whatever our joys and sorrows, let us

ever remember that what we ardently desire in our hearts will determine what we really are. How constantly and consistently we cherish noble aspirations in our minds and follow them will determine whether we drift as failures along life's highway or fulfill the divine purpose of our being.

God bless you officers and leaders of the Church. May the love of the Redeemer be in each heart, and that means that that love will be expressed in serving one another. God bless these Brethren of the General Authorities with increased health and strength to carry on their responsibilities throughout the world.

I know that God lives, that His Son Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world, and that Divine Beings restored to the Prophet Joseph Smith the Gospel of Jesus Christ as He established it in the Meridian of Time.

I bear you this testimony as we part this afternoon, and pray the blessings of the Lord to be upon each and everyone of you; that the influence of the Priesthood, of the auxiliaries, and the missionaries may be more effective from this time forward than ever before in leading the honest in heart of the whole world to turn their hearts to the worship of God, our Eternal Father, and give them power to control the animal nature, and live in the Spirit.

by Max A. Bryan

PRIESTHOOD and GENEALOGY

THE keys of authority to perform vicarious work for the dead were restored to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on April 3, 1836, in the Kirkland Temple. Among other things, the prophet Elijah said: "Therefore the keys of this dispensation are committed into your hands; and by this ye may know that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is near, even at the doors."

The responsibility of genealogical research and the performance of for their ancestors, has been placed temple ordinances for themselves and upon the priesthood of the Church and their families. The worthy Aaronic Priesthood has the responsibility of baptism for the dead, and the worthy Melchizedek Priesthood the responsibility for endowment and sealing work. The wives and daughters participate in their family responsibility with the priesthood. Genealogical and temple work are priesthood activities and are the responsibility of the individual priesthood bearer, but must be directed on a quorum and group basis under the leadership of priesthood officers to succeed.

Temple work may be defined as the endowment and sealing work for both the living and the dead, genealogical work as the research necessary to identify family members of our progenitors before temple ordinance work can be done for them. Genealogical and temple work is not an auxiliary but an actual part of the priesthood and like home

teaching, missionary or welfare work is a basic priesthood activity.

STAKE ORGANIZATION

1. The stake president will be assisted by one high council member of the stake Melchizedek Priesthood committee who will act as adviser for the genealogical programme of the stake.

2. The stake genealogical adviser among other things will:—

a, Recommend genealogical personnel and provide training for those called.

b, Organize and arrange transportation for stake temple day.

c, Organize classes to train genealogical specialists who will assist ward members.

d, Encourage genealogical research and temple work in quorums and motivate leaders to assume leadership in this activity.

e, Recommend subject matter, meeting time, and instructional personnel as needed.

3. The stake clerk will include a report on genealogical and temple work in the combined stake report summarizing all phases of priesthood achievement.

WARD ORGANIZATION

1. The bishop will be assisted by the high priests group leader who will act as adviser for the genealogical programme of the ward.

2. The ward genealogical adviser among other things will:

a, Report degree of success achieved in auxiliary and priest-

hood genealogical classes.

b, Provide training and assistance for class teachers and record examiners.

c, Manage the pedigree referral programme.

d, Encourage genealogical work among both old and young in the ward.

e, Complete genealogical reports each month and completed family group sheets to record examiners for processing.

MISSION ORGANIZATION

1. The mission president will be assisted by a Mission Board adviser for the genealogical programme of the mission. The basic plan as outlined for stakes and wards should be followed as closely as possible in the districts and branches of the missions.

2. The district president has the same responsibility in genealogical matters as the stake president. He will be assisted by a district council member who is appointed as adviser for the district genealogical programme.

3. The branch council should be organized and patterned after the ward programme. A branch elder or Melchizedek Priesthood leader should be appointed to meet in the branch council as the adviser for the branch genealogical and temple work. The branch president will be assisted by his advisor and has the same basic genealogical responsibility as the ward bishop.

4. There should be at least two record examiners in each district. Family group records should be submitted to the district councillor who in turn will assign them to the district examiners for checking. This can be done on a branch basis in large branches.

QUORUM ORGANIZATION

1. Quorum and group leaders, through home teaching and other means, are expected to persuade all their members to qualify for and receive the blessings of the temple and become active in genealogical research and vicarious temple ordinances.
2. The home teacher can, when directed by the bishop or branch president and the quorum or group leader, inquire as to the family progress in genealogical work and determine their activity by covering the following items:
 - a, A book of remembrance for each family member.
 - b, Pedigree charts for each member of the family.
 - c, A family group record sheet for each marriage union.
 - d, See if baptisms, endowments and sealings have been done for each member on the family group record.
 - e, Temple activity, with an active family organization.
 - f, When requested by the family, aid in genealogical work such as; helping the family start genealogical work themselves, encouraging the family to attend genealogical meetings, and asking their quorum leader to recommend specialists to assist the family with special problems, may be given by the home teachers.
3. Temple marriage is the goal toward which all church members should strive. The home teachers can aid in achieving this goal in their discussion of genealogical activity with the family. Parents, home teachers, auxiliary officers and teachers and priesthood officers must stress the goal and eternal values of temple marriage so that such marriages will increase both in number and quality.

RELIEF SOCIETY

by Christine H. Robinson



PREPARATION

PREPARATION is at the heart of any successful endeavour. One cannot expect to succeed unless one plans to succeed. It has been wisely said, "When you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail."

This particularly is true in teaching a lesson in Relief Society or any other organization in the Church. Most of us who teach in the Church are not skilled teachers. Very few of us have had any formal teacher training classes. Yet, those of us who are called to teach are given one of life's most important assignments. We are given the charge to impart information in such a way as

to cause it to change the lives for better of those whom we teach.

The fact that most of us are not trained teachers emphasizes the importance of preparation. Unless we prepare, we can no more expect to experience the joys of a job well done than a builder can expect to erect a sound building if he goes about it without preparation and a detailed plan.

Do you GIVE or do you READ your lesson?

As we have observed Relief Society teaching methods, we have been thrilled with the number of our

sisters who present well planned, effective lessons. On the other hand, we have been startled to observe that some of our potentially capable teachers ruin their chances of effectiveness by reading the lessons to the class from the magazine. In fact, to our sad surprise we have learned that some teachers have the mistaken idea that they have not given the lesson unless they have read it to the class from the magazine. This is most unfortunate; in fact, it is violation of what one authority describes as the first of his ten commandments for the teacher. This first commandment is "Thou shalt not read thy lesson to the class."

Some of those who break this first commandment possibly do so for one or more of the following three reasons:

1. They feel inadequate to present the lesson in their own words.
2. They do not understand the lesson well enough to present it.
3. They do not realize that reading a lesson tends to make it dull and uninteresting.

Every lesson, regardless of how well written, needs the intimate touch of the teacher's personality.

Importance of Preparation

All three of these reasons can be answered in one word—PREPARATION.

Teachers who prepare overcome their inadequacies.

Teachers who prepare will gain an understanding of the lesson.

Teachers who prepare lay the foundation for an interesting, motivating lesson.

What is involved in lesson preparation?

PRAYER is the first step in preparing a lesson. Relief Society lessons, whether they be Visiting Teaching, Theology, Literature, Homemaking, or Social Science, are a part of a divine organization of the Church established through prophecy by the Lord. Those of you who teach these lessons are engaged in the Lord's work. If you are faithful and prayerful the Lord will help you. He will give you understanding expectations. Remember the Lord and strength beyond your fondest has said to all of us, "Ask, and it

shall be given you; seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." (*Matthew 7:7*).

STUDY is the second step in effective preparation. This is a relatively simple requirement. All we need to do is read the lesson through carefully far enough in advance so we can think about it, pray about it, and come to an understanding of it. It may be necessary for us to read the lesson several times in order to gain a full knowledge of its contents. Let us underline the important points as we read. We should prayerfully study the lesson until the main ideas are clear to us. We cannot hope to teach another something we do not understand ourselves.

The third step is to PLAN TIME TO PREPARE. Most of us who teach in Relief Society are busy women. In order to prepare our lessons properly, we must plan the time for it. We should keep our magazine and reference books handy so that we can pick them up at odd minutes when we might be otherwise wasting our time. If we start preparing for the next lesson as soon as we finish giving the one before it, we shall find the time in our busy schedule to prepare. Thus we can get the main ideas of the lesson in our minds so that we can think about them and organize them as we go about our other duties.

The fourth step is to make a PLAN. Fortunately for those of us who teach in Relief Society this plan has already been prepared for us. This plan consists of "The lesson helps" for each of the departments as they appear in advance in the "Millennial Star." These "lesson helps" present the objective of every lesson. They provide a brief statement of the contents of the lesson itself. This statement or "lesson at a glance" is the kernel of the lesson which will help those being taught to put the lesson to work in their lives. These "lesson helps" also outline the points to emphasize in the lesson. They suggest lesson development, ideas for discussion, methods of applying the lesson, and assignments to make in

order to get class participation. Study "the lesson helps" along with the lesson. These helps will point out the main ideas of the lesson and emphasize its objective.

Prepare for class participation

Every lesson should be a learning experience for each member of the class. Class members learn little by merely sitting and listening to someone talk, they must participate. They must feel a part of everything that is being said and think themselves into the lesson. Each class member should be given an opportunity to express her thoughts and experiences as they relate to the lesson.

One of the best ways to encourage class participation is to ask thought-provoking challenging questions. These questions should be adapted to the experience and capacity of the class. We should avoid asking questions that can be answered "yes" or "no." Questions which are carefully prepared will arouse interest in the class members, cause them to think about the subject and will test their understanding of the lesson. Questions should be short and to the point. You may like to write on slips of paper questions about the lesson and give them to members in advance so they will come to class prepared to participate.

SUMMARY

No lesson can be well taught unless the teacher prepares adequately for it. Time spent in preparation pays rich dividends. These dividends come back to you in your own expanded knowledge and capacity to teach an in the choice satisfaction of a job well done. Most important they bless the learner—those who are members of your class—in that their understanding of the Gospel and its application to their lives is enlarged.

The Lord has commanded us that we should teach one another the doctrines of salvation. Also he has counselled us to, "organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God." (*D. and C. 88:119*).

Relief Society lesson helps

Visiting Teaching

essage 67: "See That Ye Love One Another; Cease to be Covetous: Learn to Impart One to Another As the Gospel Requires (D. & C. 88:123)

Objective: To show that love is the most important ingredient of an abundant life.

1, THOUGHTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Love of God and man make up the greatest of all commandments.
- We have been commanded to love the Lord and our neighbours.
- We learn to love by loving.
- Love brings rewards.

2, PROCEDURE SUGGESTIONS

- Place word LOVE in large letters on chalkboard. Write questions WHAT? WHOM? HOW? WHY? around it.
- Assign four sisters, each in turn to answer and discuss one of the questions pertaining to love which bring out the four power thoughts (2 min.) What is love? Whom should we love? How do we learn to love? Why should we love? Allow for a short discussion after each assignment.
- Discuss question b listed to be talked about in the home.

3, APPLICATION

When we, as mothers, express love through our daily words and deeds, we are keeping the greatest of all commandments, and are bringing growth and happiness into our own lives and the lives of others.

4, QUESTIONS THAT MAY LEAD TO DISCUSSION IN THE HOME

- What makes love of God and neighbour the greatest of all commandments?
- How do we express love to the Lord? our neighbour? all mankind?
- Why does love benefit one and how does it benefit both the one who loves and the one who is loved.

Message 68: "Cease to Be Idle" (D. & C. 88:124)

Objective: To show that only through helpful and skillful work can we achieve purposeful and happy lives.

1, THOUGHTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Idleness is not thought well of by the Lord.
- Work is a blessing.
- An important gift can be made by each of us through planned work.

2, PROCEDURE SUGGESTIONS

- Place words Idleness and Industry on chalkboard.
- Discuss what it means to be idle, using scriptures contained in message and questions listed under A for discussion in the home. (List points on chalkboard under word "Idleness" if desired)
- Assign a sister to give the parable of the talents and its meaning in our lives. (2 minutes)
- Discuss the blessings of work (list points on chalkboard under word "Industry" if desired).
- Assign a sister to talk about thought No. C, and in-

clude in the discussion question No. C, to be talked about in home.

- Have the class discuss.

3, APPLICATION

As mothers, each day of our lives can be full of meaning and happy if we are not idle and have spent our time doing useful work.

4, QUESTIONS THAT MAY LEAD TO DISCUSSION IN THE HOME

- What does it mean to be idle? It is possible to be busy and still idle away our time?
- Why is work a blessing?
- Can we do our duty, as mothers, through helpful work at home? at Church? In the neighbourhood? In the community?
- How can we help our children to be grateful for the work?

Theology

Lesson 67: The Law, Man and the Universe (D. & C. 88:36-75.)

Objective: To understand the importance of a reign of law in the world and to learn how man may profit eternally by obedience to law.

1, LESSON AT A GLANCE

The knowledge that law does reign in the world should give the Latter-day Saint a view concerning experiences in life. To learn of and to obey law is for our eternal benefit.

2, LESSON EMPHASIS

- In this revelation we learn that a law has been given unto all things. We need to understand that moral laws are as unchangeable as those by which the universe is governed.
- The basic laws and principles of the gospel do not change. Obedience to law brings the blessings and benefits of that law. Latter-day Saints should study faithfully to know and understand the Lords' will that their "minds become single to God."

- The commandment is given that we should call upon the Lord while he is near.

- A thorough study of the scriptures may bring one to realise the basic truth about himself and his relationship to God.

- Too much laughter and light mindedness towards sacred things, and improper conduct are condemned by the Lord; yet, happiness, joy and cheerfulness are signs of the saint.

3, MAKING THE LESSON LIVE

- A test might be conducted to show that there is order in all things. (For example, a jar with equal parts of water, gravel and salad oil might be shaken to mix the various ingredients and then left to stand for a while. The materials will separate into distinct parts. What is the value of this lesson to us.

- Assign two sisters to discuss questions 4 and 5 found at the end of the lesson. (Give a time

limit).

4, LESSON APPLICATION

Suppose that a friend has lost faith in the gospel and has asked for your advice and help. How and in what way would this lesson prepare you to help her to understand or appreciate the truths of the gospel? (This situation could be solved by class discussion, or by assignment to a sister.)

Lesson 68: Knowledge and events of the future (D. & C. 88:76-116).

Objective: To learn the value of missionary preparation; the place of education in the gospel; and of happenings in the future as they are foretold.

1, LESSON AT A GLANCE

Fasting, prayer, study, and righteous living are necessary in order to get ready to serve as a missionary, parent, or "neighbour," and to prepare ourselves to meet the troubled times which have been foretold.

2, LESSON EMPHASIS

a, Fasting and prayer are given as a commandment to the servants of the Lord to help them in preparation of their missionary work.

b, It is our duty in this particular time to (a) "teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom," (b) "warn our neighbour;" and (c) know of the "judgements to come" and prepare ourselves to meet them.

c, There are subjects "necessary for you to understand" in preparing for teaching and missionary duty.

d, "He that seeketh me early shall find me, and shall not be forsaken."

e, It is necessary to learn how freedom from the bondage of sin is preserved.

3, MAKING THE LESSON LIVE

a, Ask a sister to prepare and present a five minute talk on the value of fasting in preparation to sincere prayer as she would give it to a young family.

b, Ask a class member to discuss how this lesson will help them to prepare themselves to teach the doctrines of the kingdom to their children.

c, Assignment could be made to a sister to explain the system of education as given in D. & C. 88, verses 77-79 and tell how it may apply in our lives today.

4, CAUTION:

Do not name any particular church in speaking of verse 94.

Literature

Lesson II: Growth through experience

Objective: To show how literature expresses the fact that sometimes we learn through experience, and sometimes we oppose learning and remain unchanged.

1, LESSON AT A GLANCE

We can grow through the opportunities of experience or we can cease to progress through the routine of experience—all caused by our feelings towards it.

2, POINTS TO STRESS

a, There is dignity in work and nobility in the simple life.

b, The words, courage, fear, pride, humility, freedom, bondage, are without meaning unless applied to something—until we come to know them through ex-

perience.

c, Those who grow up through life's experiences, grow in an understanding of life's true values and in character qualities.

d, Many people have their eyes set on what they can get out of life rather than on what they can give to life.

3, VITALIZING THE LESSON

a, Exchange of ideas by all the class could be encouraged by assignments and by discussion. Class leaders or assigned sisters could tell the stories, reading from the text those parts of each story that are of great literary value. (Example: The description of the bear found on pages 192-193)

b, Draw attention to the character qualities of the woman and the youth in the two stories.

c, Use the questions at the end of the lesson.

The sisters should be left with a desire to examine their own qualities and characters, their own sense of values.

Lesson 12: The place of suffering in Life—Part 1

Objective: To show the nature of grief and man's supports in time of suffering.

1, LESSON AT A GLANCE

Sorrow comes to the whole human race; it may be an ache of loneliness, but can be made less by talking to a sympathetic person, by developing emotional powers and by exercising faith in God.

2, POINTS TO STRESS

a, The need to speak of our grief

b, Man's first thought is of himself

c, Importance of emotional powers within.

d, "All things work together for good to them that love God."

3, MAKING THE LESSON LIVE

a, Assign two sisters to read suitable passages from Job, having one sister read the words of Job and another the words of the Comforter.

1, Choose verses carefully so as to bring out the aim of the lesson

2, Discuss these verses in an interesting but brief way.

b, Show a picture, if possible, of an old English cab driver.

c, Ask a sister to read choice portions from "The Lament."

d, Talk of the emotional helps which can be found in time of sorrow.

e, Assign several sisters to read favourite passages from Compensation, by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Social Science

Lesson 12: Home is a Harbour

Objective: To increase the influence of the mother within her home in keeping the customs of Christmas in harmony with its religious meaning.

1, LESSON AT A GLANCE

This lesson talks about the influence of the mother in building Christmas beliefs and practices, and making the home ready for Christmas, which, of course, means, first of all, preparing her own attitude. Descriptions of two different kinds of homes at Christmas are given.

2, POINTS TO STRESS

a, Many families are afraid that the real spirit of

Christmas is being lost in a wave of buying and selling gifts.

- b, The stand taken by the mother may decrease this habit within her own home.
- c, Christmas practices are important only if they take into account the real message and aim of Christmas—that it is in memory of the birth and mission of the Saviour.
- d, If the mother is to keep the Christmas celebrations in her home in harmony with its religious meaning, she herself must be in harmony with this feeling.
- e, The scriptures which point out the commandments of the Lord, help her in reaching this good feeling.
- f, Home is the place for peace and love and understanding. All are important for the joy of Christmas.

3, SUGGESTED LESSON DEVELOPMENT

The first part of this lesson might be built up through discussion, guided by the class leader, with several class members participating. The conversation piece from House A might be read by a good reader, prepared in advance. The short dramatization entitled, "Home is a Harbour," might be given by class members (previously assigned) reading the parts in "drawing-room drama" style. Should this be done, the men's characters should be men, not women in men's dress. Singing of some Christmas carols would make the presentation more enjoyable. Some special Christmas music would also add to the lesson.

Literature No.2

Optional Lesson in Lieu of Literature—Latter-day Saint Hymns, January lesson: "The Morning Breaks," words by Parley P. Pratt, music by George Careless.

"The Morning Breaks, the shadows flee" is one of the best and most inspiring of Latter-day Saint hymns. The words were written by Parley Parker Pratt, the music by George Edward Percy Careless. This inspiring hymn was not written in time to be included in Emma Smith's collection of hymns.

PARLEY P. PRATT

Parley P. Pratt was the most prolific hymn writer of the church. Thirty-eight of his inspired songs appear in the new Church Hymn Book.

The following story is typical of many which could be written about this man. The Apostle was crossing the Atlantic on one of his missions to England, and owing to lack of money he was in the steerage. In mid-ocean the passengers on the upper deck wanted to have a programme and were looking for an orator. Someone suggested that there was a Mormon Apostle on the lower deck and Parley P. Pratt was sent for. Brother Pratt was shabbily dressed and his looks disappointed the wealthy who were to listen to him. However, when he started to speak his audience was entranced and they soon forgot about his shabby clothes. After his speech, Brother Pratt was invited to ride first-class for the rest of the voyage.

WORDS OF THE HYMN

There was no dramatic incident connected with the writing of the words of this hymn. It was one of those poems, which, in the author's own words, were the melting strains of joy and admiration of contemplating

the approaching dawn of the glorious day which shall crown the earth and its inhabitants with universal peace and rest."

The first two stanzas of his hymn deal in metaphors. They picture the world in spiritual darkness until the Lord spoke to the Prophet Joseph Smith and opened up this dispensation of the fulness of times, when—

"Day from his quiver drew His shining shaft,

And thwart the night the flaming arrow flew—," and the Gospel was established and the shadows of night dispelled by the dawning of a new day.

The third and fourth stanzas speak of the ushering in of the Fulness of the Gentiles, the realization of Israel's blessings, and the return of the Jews to the promised land.

A new note of exultation is found in the first two lines of the fifth stanza:

"Angels from heaven and truth from earth,

Have met, and both have record borne."

These are poetic responses to one of the most beautiful of the revelations of the Lord to the Prophet on the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. (See D. & C. 84:100-101).

This hymn occupies one of the first places in Latter-day Saint Hymns not only because of its restoration theme, but because of its effective imagery and its superior literary and poetic qualities. It will live forever in Latter-day Saint Hymnology.

THE MUSIC

The music for "The Morning Breaks" was composed under interesting circumstances. Brother Careless together with a group of Saints sailed from England on June 30th, 1864. When the ship neared New York, the Captain came to Brother Careless and said that he had admired the singing of the Mormon group so much that he wanted one of the professor's hymn tunes.

"I am very sorry, Captain, but my music is all packed up. I haven't even a bit of music paper, or I would write one for you." The Captain said he must have one of the professor's tunes. Young Careless took a piece of writing paper out of his pocket, drew a staff across it, then looked for a quiet place. On an empty barrel, in a corner of the vessel, he sat down and wrote the music for the hymn, "The Morning Breaks, the Shadows Flee." After writing the music, Brother Careless assembled his choir and sang it for the Captain, giving him the rough copy of the music. The Captain seemed most delighted.

GEORGE CARELESS

George Careless was born in London on September 14th, 1839. As a boy he exhibited much musical talent.

George Careless was a student of the Royal Academy of London. He played under eminent leaders as Exeter Hall, Drury Lane, and the Crystal Palace. At one time he played first violin at the huge Crystal Palace led by Sir Michael Costa. He was often referred to as a "natural" musician, as well as a highly trained one.

Brother Careless' interest in music never faltered, and later his testimony of the Gospel came to him even more strongly than did his love for music. When he offered his resignation to Sir Michael and explained that his purpose was to move to the headquarters of the Latter-day Saint Church in Utah, he was told that he would be wasting his time and talent in that wilderness among the

CONCLUDED ON OPPOSITE PAGE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Dr. O. Preston Robinson

SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE HOME'S GOOD RIGHT ARM

OUR Lord, through his Prophets, has emphasised repeatedly that the responsibility for teaching children lies with the parents. In the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord tells us that, "Inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the son of the living God and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents." Moreover, parents shall, "teach their children to pray and to walk uprightly before the Lord."

The Sunday School, however, reaches out and offers its expert help to parents in this important responsibility. Sunday School is the home's good right arm. If a close relationship exists between the home and the Sunday School a solid foundation is laid for the application of Gospel principles in the lives of Sunday School attenders.

THE ESSENTIALS

The same qualities that characterize successful teaching in the Sunday School apply to the parents in their relationship with their children in the home. Patience, understanding,

tolerance, a wholesome and healthful attitude, a good example—these are the basics that help to achieve worthwhile goals in the rearing and teaching of children. These, also are the essentials of a wholesome, happy family life.

All of these important Christian virtues can be taught, encouraged and inspired both in the classroom and in the home. The important thing is that these two wonderful institutions work co-operatively together.

What better opportunity is there for the needed practice of principles taught in the classroom than the home working co-operatively with the Sunday School teacher? What better laboratory for practice is afforded the Sunday School than a orderly, living home where parents are convinced of their teaching responsibility to their children. Fortunately indeed, too, are parents whose children have Sunday School teachers who go beyond the discussion of Gospel principles and point the way, with solid encouragement, to the application of these principles in daily living.

NEED FOR CO-OPERATION

If the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be put actively into practice in the

lives of Latter-day Saints, the Sunday School and the home need to co-operate effectively. This co-operation can be established in many ways with the divine purpose of encouraging and motivating the application of Gospel principles. Here are some ways in which the Sunday School teacher and the parents at home can work co-operatively.

1. Parents, themselves, should take a vital and continued interest in teaching being given to their children in Sunday School.

Wise parents should acquaint themselves with the courses of study being presented to their children in the Sunday School. They should take an interest in the teacher and in the way the class is being taught. This can be done by an occasional visit to the class. It can also be accomplished through parents becoming acquainted with Sunday School officers and teachers and in showing an interest in the progress being made by their students. Constructive interest of this type helps to make Sunday School teaching more effective. Moreover, parents who enquire of their children about the lessons they have been taught, open many

Indians, where he would have no opportunity to perform his music that he loved so dearly.

However, this proved to be an error in judgement, as Brigham Young, the President of the Church, at once recognized the talent of the small slender, black-eyed man, and immediately placed him in charge of all Church music in Salt Lake City. This included being conductor of the Tabernacle Choir.

He is best known for his beautifully harmonized Sacramental Hymns, although he has written in many moods. The martial "Hark listen to the Trumpeters," the exultant "The Morning Breaks," are tremendous in their strength and spirit, and "Though deepening trials" will always bring comfort and peace to the troubled soul.

LESSON PRESENTATION SUGGESTIONS

1. Assign a good reader to read the words of the hymn, "The Morning Breaks."
2. Discuss the meaning of the first two stanzas.
3. Discuss the third and fourth stanzas.
4. Assign a sister to read and explain D. & C. 84:100-101.
5. Discuss the relationship of the scripture to the fifth stanza of the hymn.
6. Why will this hymn live forever in L.D.S. Hymnology?
7. Assign a sister to relate the story of Parley P. Pratt as brought out in the lesson.
8. Assign a sister to tell the life of George Careless.

avenues for suggested and motivated applications. This type of interest also compliments and encourages the teacher. It can and must be done, however, without interference. Parents should take a constructive and not a critical interest.

2. The teacher should help to motivate this parental interest

In their busy lives, many parents fail to evidence an adequate interest in their children's Sunday School experiences. The wise teacher should look for opportunities to contact parents, not only to show an interest in their children, but also to acquaint them with lessons taught, projects being organised, challenges being given, assignments made along with possible Gospel applications in which the parents might participate.

3. Teachers should encourage parental visits to the class

Particularly in the younger classes, home co-operation can be stimulated if parents, occasionally,

are invited to attend a class. Such visits may have two-fold advantages. They provide parents with a first hand acquaintance with the teacher, with her subject and the methods she is using. Also, the teacher, through the visits from parents, may be able to get better acquainted with them, thus opening many doors for future co-operative effort in the applications of Gospel principles to the lives of the children.

HOW CAN COURSE INFORMATION BE TRANSMITTED TO PARENTS

For the fullest co-operation, parents should be acquainted with the actual lessons being taught to their children from week to week. This information can be transmitted to parents through the students themselves. This can be done verbally, or in the younger classes, through slips of paper carried home by the students.

Teachers also can communicate directly with parents, by telephone or through the mail. This type of interest not only helps to build a co-operative spirit, but also it will do

much to encourage attendance on the part of the children.

The ward or branch bulletin, also, might possibly be used to acquaint parents with subject matter being taught their children. Also, these bulletins might be used to inform parents about assignments given and projects in process. This type of information will do much to help parents to participate in and encourage the students to fulfil assignments and projects.

Another effective way, of course, for parents to know about Sunday School subject matters is for them to become acquainted with Sunday School manuals. The teacher should encourage the students to obtain copies of the course manual and to carry it home for personal study. Wise parents should encourage their children to obtain the lesson manuals and, moreover, to ask intelligent and pertinent questions when their children return from Sunday School. Thus, setting the stage for the application of Gospel principles and for teaching their children "to pray and to walk uprightly before the Lord."

... Say

Merry Christmas

with a gift of the



Millennial STAR

Verbal snapshots

To be happy we should serve others. Set your life on an inclined plane each day, doing something better, higher, and bigger confidently so that you are always progressing. You can never be happy unless you are improving yourself every day.

What is the worth of a boy or a girl? MIA leaders must be interested in and not only help the young people whose names appear on the records of the church, but also every young person who is a potential member. Among our young people are future leaders. Given the right opportunity and training each young person is not only a potential leader, but also a potential head of a faithful Latter-day Saint family. The loss of one boy or girl from the fold of Christ today may mean the loss of hundreds in future generations. MIA leaders in the small branches should never say, "Oh there is just one boy or just one girl in that age group. We don't have time to worry about him or her." How much was the life of just one boy, say the boy Joseph Smith, worth to mankind? Who can estimate the potential worth of any boy or any girl? Let's keep as close to our young people as humanly possible, so they will keep close to the church.

Likewise, let's keep track of our leaders. The Mission Committee of the MIA General Board is striving to keep a current card file on Mission MIA Superintendents and Presidents. We would like to urge

all missions to let the general board know when the supervisors are changed so that the file can be kept up to date. We would appreciate knowing in each case the name and address of the new appointees along with some background information on each. With this information, the committee can give better service to the MIA in the mission.

Let's ring the bell for perfection by keeping records current. Some do's and don't's:

DO

1. Take the First Step Now.
2. Give yourself a mental reward. Praise yourself—although not aloud.
3. Keep busy mentally.
4. Get organized.

DON'T

1. Do not wait until you can do a good job.
2. Do not be a pencil sharpener. Do not wait to get ready. Get with it.
3. Do not do all the easy jobs first.
4. Do not waste time making decisions about trifles. Make them quickly. Indecision is a bad habit. Use your intuition. It is usually right.
5. Do not leave your work today to chance. Plan ahead. If you think about your difficulties, your unconscious will be against you.

CONSTANCY IN RECORD KEEPING. As vital as the date of your leadership meeting or your weekly MIA is the date each month

when your reports are due. Prior to this date write yourself a note: "Get reports done." Procrastination is the thief of time. Don't let it steal from you. Set the burglar alarms on your calendar now. Every special event should be reported properly to the secretary of your branch or district. This report should be a **VERBAL SNAPSHOT** of the event which through the years will reconstruct the event, its mood, and its meaning. Don't let these events get stale so you will have to try to recollect a few gleanings which do not accurately portray what was really done.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YMMIA SECRETARIES

The following records are important and should be attended to:

1. Yearly summary of attendance of YMMIA Leaders.
2. Mutual Improvement Association Leaders' Roll.
3. Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association class roll. (branch).
4. Branch attendance at leadership meeting. (district).
5. Class teacher and subject sheet.
6. Activity participation roll. (branch).

MINUTES. Minutes should be taken of branch and district functions and any activity that pertains to an MIA sponsored meeting. Also, minutes of YMMIA meeting with the branch presidency.

HISTORY. Historical records of the YMMIA officers and of the branch and district should be kept.



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FINANCES. Financial record of the branch and district and also a summary for the year.

SUMMARY AND ENROLLMENT REPORTS. For a breakdown of this material so that an accurate record can be kept, one can consult the executive manual or check the special bulletin, "Instructions for YMMIA secretaries, 1965" which can be obtained from the YMMIA offices in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Of course, the boys' programme ties right in with the Aaronic Priesthood programme, which also recognises the standard service award programme. It must be correlated through the Aaronic Priesthood Supervisor and Secretary.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YWMIA SECRETARIES

It was not so long back that the young ladies were attending in lesser quantities than the young men and it was wondered why. A pilot study was run in the Granite Stake, Salt Lake City, Utah, in using the girl's programme and the ward events connected with it. This made a great improvement in the attendance figures and activities of the young women. So it is patterned very much along the boy's programme.

The following rolls are important in the YWMIA for secretaries to attend to:

1. Attendance rolls.
2. Yearly summary of attendance of class members.
3. Leadership meeting attendance (district).
4. Class teacher and subject sheet. (branch).
5. Activity participation roll. (branch).

MINUTES. Minutes of leadership meeting, branch meetings district meetings, activity reports, and branch evaluation meeting should be carefully kept.

HISTORY. Historical record of the YWMIA officers, branch and district historical records of events and the MIA information sheet, with a calculation of history and minutes.

FINANCES. The financial record and summary (district and branch)

monthly.

SUMMARY. Records of the MIA enrollment and attendance for the year.

DISTRICT AND BRANCH MIA SECRETARIES ARE NEVER TOO BUSY TO DO A GOOD JOB WITH THEIR SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES!

Any further information desirable for the YWMIA Secretaries can be received from a special bulletin report which is put out on the subject by the general headquarters of the church in Salt Lake City, Utah, or by consultation with the MIA Executive Manual.

In conclusion may we quote Apostle Richard L. Evans, who said: "We only grow by growing; we only do by doing; and he who shows a niggardly, unwilling nature, he who refuses to grow as much as he should grow, to learn as much as he should learn and to work as well as he could work, he who holds back his best efforts whatever he may be doing for others, is cheating first himself and dwarfing himself inside. He is afraid of doing too much and seldom does enough. The spirit of slipping through, the spirit of simply getting by will rob us of the richest rewards."

Indifference is one of the greatest sins. We cannot be indifferent and be a good secretary. Edmund Burke phrased it well when he said: "All that is needed for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Whom do you admire most? The individual that is disinterested in his work and doesn't care or he who devotes every fibre of his being to the cause in which he is engaged? Had Jesus faltered or had he changed objectives or turned back even in the last hour, his life would have lost its meaning. This is without doubt the greatest example of absolute dedication. Remember yours is more important than any spoken word ever was because these records are filed in the archives of the church. They are the records by which we will be judged when the books are opened. Let us make sure that our records will not be found wanting.

4 *Four Vital Questions*



WHAT a blessing it is to be able to teach children effectively—that they go home filled with the message of the lesson and eager to continue living it during the week.

Elder Mark E. Petersen has stated, “We who labour in the Church must never lose sight of this matter of conversion. A child is not necessarily converted merely by being born into a Latter-day Saint Family. He is not converted by merely living in such a home. Parents and Church workers alike must realize that a person is not converted unless he is taught, and properly taught, by both example and precept.”

Preparation is the foundation of all-effective teaching and good preparation includes careful evaluation. If a Primary teacher will evaluate carefully each week's lesson; if she will check on herself and her teaching, she will be a true influence for good in the lives of the children and they will go home eager to live the gospel teachings.

Here is a way of preparing your lesson, standard, music, or any Primary teaching you might present during the coming month. This method will make your presentation purposeful in the lives of the boys and girls. Each week as you prepare your Primary assignment ask yourself these four questions. Keep them in mind all during your preparation as a guide to everything you plan to do or say: 1. What do I want the children to believe? 2. Why is this

material important in the life of the child? 3. Do I believe what I am teaching? 4. Will the children go home believing so strongly that they will live the teaching?

WHAT DO I WANT THE CHILDREN TO BELIEVE? I want them to realise that in Primary today they will learn one gospel truth. Everything that I do and say in my lesson today will be to enhance that truth. It is the purpose for which I am presenting the material. I will forget everything else. I will not clutter childish minds with many subjects. I will teach one truth and every game we play, song we sing, poem we recite, story we tell, will be done with the purpose of strengthening that truth.

WHY IS THIS MATERIAL IMPORTANT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHILD? It isn't enough to tell stories from the Bible or Book of Mormon. I must see the depth in the story. I must see the meaning that this story has for the child today. If I teach that Daniel was courageous I shall also show how a modern child can be courageous by not being tempted to do wrong. If I teach how Brigham Young paid his tithing, I shall also show how the children under my care will be blessed if they pay their tithing. I will make every lesson real to the children.

In the following illustration Joyce's teacher in Primary not only taught her about kindness, she

showed her a concrete way to be kind in her own home during the week. She made it important in her life.

Joyce skipped happily through the door and reached enthusiastically for her mother's hand. Grasping the hand firmly, she smiled into her mother's questioning eyes and answered the unspoken queries with the twinkle in her own. Then, still holding the hand firmly, she doubled all of the fingers but one back against the palm. Now mother had one finger pointing away from her and three pointing towards her. Joyce stood at her mother's side. She touched her mother's outstretched finger.

"This is the finger that means someone else should be kind," she explained. "It is pointing away from me. These three fingers mean I should be kind. They are pointing towards me. During this week I will do three kind acts for someone else. That will be one good deed for each of these three fingers. That's what we learned from the Primary Standard today. Before we were dismissed our teacher had each of us point three fingers at ourselves and think of the kind acts we could do." Joyce hesitated, then she continued, "I'll begin by setting the table for dinner."

DO I BELIEVE WHAT I AM TEACHING? If I do not believe what I am teaching I had better get on my knees and pray about it until I do believe it. I will ask my Branch President or Bishop to help me understand the subject.

Children can sense the conviction and truth in a teacher's voice when she knows for herself that what she is teaching is true. They can feel the doubt and uncertainty in a person's voice when doubt is in her mind.

If a Primary teacher does not know enough about the lesson material which she is teaching, she should read the Scripture references included with the lesson and talk to a well-informed person about the subject. Any teacher will give a better lesson if she is well informed about her subject and knows it is true.

DID THE CHILDREN GO HOME BELIEVING ME SO STRONGLY THAT THEY WILL LIVE THE TEACHING? If I have truly fulfilled my calling as a Primary worker for my Heavenly Father I have changed the behaviour of the children. This is my goal. This is what happens when teaching is effective. This happened in Julie's life:

Julie went to Primary with her friend, although she and her family were not members of the Church. One day after she had been attending for several months, she stayed after class to talk with her teacher. She wondered how she could get someone to talk with her family about the wonderful lesson she was learning. The teacher got in touch with the Bishop and it was not long until the missionaries began making regular calls at Julie's home. Finally the entire family were ready to be baptized and they made an impressive sight as they sat together all dressed in white, waiting for this sacred ordinance to be performed. The Bishop called for the father, being the head of the family to be baptized first.

Julie's father said, "I think Julie should be the first one to be baptized. You see, she was the first one to learn about the gospel in Primary. If it had not have been for her, I am afraid we might not all be here today. I think she should have the privilege of going down into the waters of baptism first."

There were tears in Julie's eyes as she smiled up at her father, and then reached for the Bishop's hand as he helped her down into the water.

Julie had been taught of the Lord and her Primary teacher had peace in her heart when all the family were baptized.

Check Up On Your Primary Preparation

1. Ask yourself four questions:

Did I really "put over" the purpose of this lesson?

Did I help every child to realize that this lesson was important to him today?

Did I help them to feel I knew

the lesson was true?

2. Did I have the room ready before Primary?

3. Did I have my visual aids prepared?

4. Did I take with me all the supplies I needed?

5. Did I have an interesting greeting in mind for the children?

6. Did I prepare the children for the prayer?

7. Did I mark the roll silently, without wasting class time?

Consider all the checking that takes place before an astronaut is thrust into orbit. To ensure the success of such a flight, atmospheric conditions are checked and rechecked. The firing platform, the firing missile, the capsule, and personal gear are checked with the greatest of care before the "count down." When in orbit the astronaut never stops checking his gear and panel to see that everything is functioning properly. By radio he keeps in constant communication with the scientists in the checking stations on earth who understand his situation and can give him guidance.

So it is in Primary. There must be constant checking on every Primary day so that all the children are "taught of the Lord."

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HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL:

The material in this article could be used in a forthcoming preparation meeting. Ask a Primary worker to read the article and to prepare a chart with the four questions printed on it. Assign her to give a lesson demonstration at the preparation meeting showing how the four questions in this article have helped her in preparing her lesson.

Following her presentation, conduct a workshop by allowing each teacher present a few minutes to consider a forthcoming lesson and how she could use the questions in her preparation. Ask all to prepare their lessons for the coming month using these questions as guides and to come to preparation meeting next month ready to tell of any changes they have noticed in their Primary classes.



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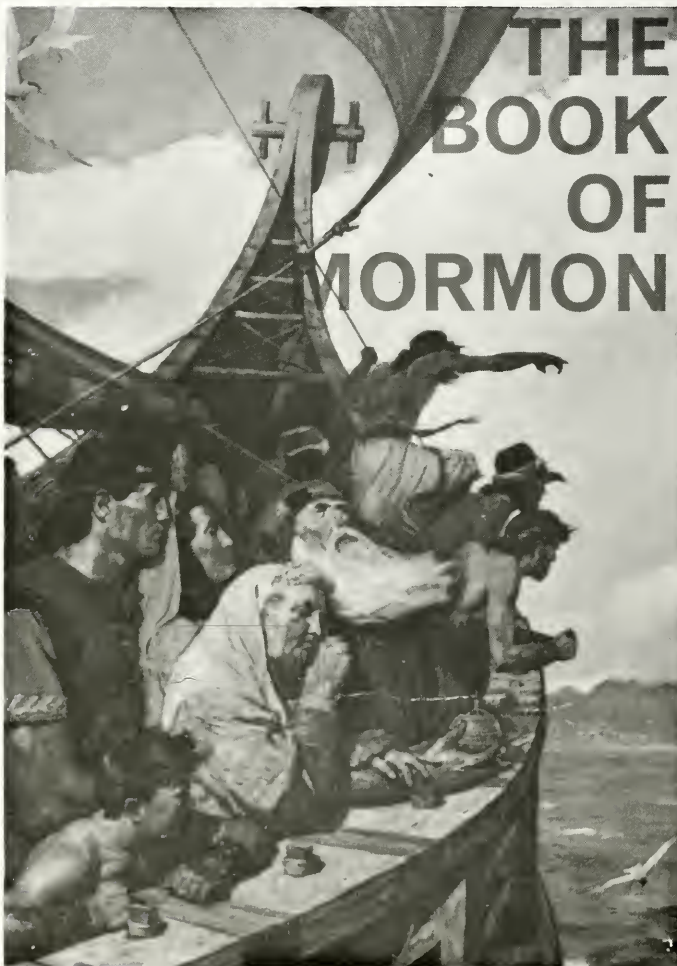
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